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WHO OWNS CH 7?

Why a Secret Agreement to Repay BTL?

The public has a right to know…Journalists have a duty to Tell." (Jules Vasquez) Then, tell us, who are the real owners of Channel 7? And, what exactly is in the undisclosed agreement to settle your father's personal debt to BTL. Or is it all a classified Victorian Secret?

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"*The public has a right to know. And once the public has a right to know, journalists have a duty to tell.*" Those were the exact words of Channel 7's self-righteous, loud-mouth managing director, Jules Vasquez, proclaimed on his station's morning show. But when it comes to public matters involving him and close members of his family, this cardinal rule, by his estimation, apparently does not apply.

BTL is owned by the people of Belize. With 49 percent of shares in the company held directly by the Government of Belize, 34 percent by Social Security Board (SSB), and 8 percent by Central Bank of Belize, the public sector owns a combined majority of 91 percent in Telemedia, with the remaining 9 percent held by smaller shareholders who are generally local Belizean investors.

It follows naturally, by Jules' own pronouncement, that with anything relating to Belize Telemedia, the public has a right to know. Why then did the family estate closely connected to the station he operates (Channel 7) and the related media company (Tropical Vision) find it necessary and appropriate to enter into a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with BTL (owned by the public) in settlement of debts incurred by his late father, Nestor Vasquez, inappropriately using a Telemedia corporate credit card to incur and cover personal expenses.

The nature of the expenses was quite a story of its own, fit for a salacious soap opera production, including the purchase of pricey Victoria's Secret items allegedly gifted to a mistress. But the hard fact is that finances to the tune of almost a million dollars from the publicly owned company were abused and misused for personal satisfaction.

An audit conducted for BTL confirmed that Vasquez owed the company $858,197.87, which included $684,197.69 in credit card charges, $29,231.75 for fuel and $22,956 for personal insurance payments. There was also $122,611.59 towards outstanding telephone and internet bills for Tropical Vision, his family-owned media organization.

Vasquez had accepted liability and initially tried to reduce the debt through a 26-month contract to run BTL ads on Channel 7 (at inflated rates), and cash payments through deductions from his salary. But the BTL ad package was later discontinued and Vasquez was forced to resign as BTL's Chairman, leaving him with a sizeable outstanding debt to the company.

Fast-forward to February, 2024, almost three years after the passing of Jules' father in April of 2021. The estate of Nestor Vasquez announced that they had "reached a full and final settlement with Belize Telemedia Limited for the debt owed to the company."

The release stated, "The remaining balance of this debt has now been fully satisfied, with the final payment made on January 29th in compliance with a Supreme Court Order, Claim No. 149 of 2021."

What was not spelt out is that the so-called settlement was tied to a Non-Disclosure Agreement. In other words, the details of the settlement could not be shared with the public.

Which brings us back to the Million Dollar question of what exactly did the people's company accept as settlement from Jules Vasquez's family for the outstanding debts incurred by his father. The public certainly has a right to know.

There is a related question, the answer to which is certainly also in the interest of the Belize public regarding Tropical Vision, closely connected to the Nestor Vasquez Estate, and which is now led by Jules Vasquez and its managing director.

That question is, who exactly are the real owners of Channel 7? Do they include Atlantic Bank? If so, what would be the nature of the indebtedness entailed? Do they include Aldo Salazar of Sanctuary Bay fame, recently named as UDP representative on the Elections and Boundaries Commission? And if so, what would be the quid pro quo, and is it having a significant bearing on the lopsided, politically charged content being fed to the Belizean public on that station?

The public has a right to know; and if the public has a duty to know, one journalist in particular has a duty to tell. And if he doesn't, we promise that this newspaper will do so very soon, as we are on the verge of confirming all the facts in this regard. Stay tuned.

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, July 17, 2026.

The Cabinet met on July 15, 2026.

- Cabinet gave its approval for the introduction of legislation to repeal the Education and Training Act and replace it with a modern legislative framework that reflects the current and future needs of Belize's education system, and to further introduce a Technical and Vocational Education Bill to make new and improved provisions for the development and regulation of the TVET sector of Belize.

- Cabinet gave its approval to make amendments to the Millennium Challenge Account – Belize Authority Bill to ratify the MCC Belize Compact and Program Implementation Agreement.

- Cabinet gave its approval to amend the First Schedule of the Customs and Excise Duties Act to give effect to the implementation of the revised Common External Tariff following approval by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

- Cabinet gave its approval for the modernization of the regulation of veterinary practice in Belize through the enactment of new legislation which will replace the Veterinary Surgeons Act to establish a clearer, more comprehensive, and contemporary regulatory framework.

- The Minister with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management reported to Cabinet on the status of flooding as a result of the recent rains related to a tropical system that recently passed over Belize, indicating that the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) had deployed in the affected areas to the West and South of the country to assist those affected by the Storm. In addition, Hon. Henry Charles Usher informed Cabinet that NEMO is working closely with all the relevant authorities to make the necessary damage assessments and is prepared for further action if needed.

- Cabinet gave its approval for the development of a Regional Forensic Science Center in Belize to ensure that criminal investigations are reliable, independent, and sustainable, and to support CARICOM countries with the technical capabilities of a forensic lab.

- Finally, Cabinet extends congratulations to Belize's male volleyball team on winning the gold medal in the men's AFECAVOL competition.

Ends

Rural Communities Receive Support

Fourteen More Get MRT Aid

July 16, 2026 - Village councils across Belize are now better equipped to improve public spaces, strengthen local services, and enhance community facilities following a series of handovers by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development and Local Government. The latest initiatives included the distribution of maintenance equipment, furniture, water infrastructure, and roofing materials, reinforcing the Government's commitment to supporting rural communities through practical investments that address local needs.

The first handover took place in Belmopan, where representatives from 14 communities gathered to receive riding mowers, weed trimmers, tables, chairs, water tanks, and water meters. According to the Ministry, the equipment will help village councils improve routine maintenance, support community events, expand water services, and better serve residents while strengthening local governance.

The beneficiary villages included Sarteneja in the Corozal District; Santa Cruz in Orange Walk; Maskall, Sand Hill, and Lemonal in the Belize District; Bullet Tree Falls, San Antonio, Buena Vista, El Progresso, Unitedville, and Valley of Peace in the Cayo District; Middlesex and Maya Center in the Stann Creek District; and Bella Vista in the Toledo District. The nationwide distribution reflects an effort to ensure that rural communities in every district benefit from improvements that support sustainable development.

Riding mowers and weed trimmers formed a significant part of the handover and will be used to maintain football fields, parks, roadside areas, cemeteries, and other public spaces. The Ministry noted that cleaner and better-maintained villages contribute to healthier environments while reducing the workload placed on local volunteers and council members responsible for community upkeep.

Each participating village also received tables and chairs that will support public meetings, educational programmes, cultural celebrations, training sessions, and family events. For many communities, access to these basic resources has often required borrowing or renting equipment whenever public gatherings were held.

Chair of the Lemonal Village Council, Dawn Banner, welcomed the donation,

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PUP ANNOUNCEMENT

The People's United Party

announces a convention to elect

the PUP 7 team to represent the PUP in the March 2027 Municipal election in

COROZAL TOWN

Polling will take place on

Sunday August 9th, 2026

at St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic School

Polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

SERVE THE PEOPLE

7 IN 10
BELIZEAN TERTIARY STUDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT
Students across junior colleges receive an average of $1,000 in financial assistance to help continue their education journey.
MORE STUDENTS. MORE OPPURTUNITIES. A STRONGER FUTURE

SUPPORTING SECONDARY EDUCATION
OVER
60%
RECEIVE FULL TUITION ASSISTANCE
Thousands of secondary school students across Belize are receiving full tuition support.

EDITORIAL

The Economy Roars Forward

Often, the media and the streets will scoff at Belize's regional-leading 5.1 per cent Gross Domestic Product. That media also travels hundreds of miles of smooth highway to take a picture of a few square feet of tarmacadam eroded by unforgiving nature. They, of course, ignore the resilient miles. The media is right, in the vilest of negative ways; the public, in general, cannot fathom GDP and unemployment rates at the dinner table. Explaining the macro economy to the masses is daunting, yet it is easier than one could fathom. The purchasing power that GDP growth and unemployment bring to the unprecedented number of employed Belizeans can be seen in the purchasing power of thousands of Belizeans themselves. As the economy roars, the people flex their dollar with economic might.

The Iran War saw oil prices rise. This led to a rise in the price of commodities linked to fuel. The initial rise to over 100 US dollars per barrel caused a dramatic rise at the fuel pump since March 2026. The government put in measures to stabilise our fuel prices. It is easy to see that higher prices have not parked vehicles. The Iran War's initial euphoria has tapered off to eighty or so dollars per barrel, but the pump prices worldwide have not followed suit. Such is the case with prices; business owners cry foul at the slightest rise in procurement costs but are very silent when prices revert. Businesses make deliberate, calculated decisions about supply and demand and what their clientele will pay. Today, it would seem that business decisions are made in light of low unemployment and high purchasing power.

Let's take this past FIFA World Cup Final weekend, which Belize doubled up as a Lobster Fest Weekend and a Benque Fiesta and a Gales Point Manatee Day. Arguably the hottest of tourist hot spots in Belize, San Pedro, Caye Caulker, and Placencia planned their 2026 Lobster Fests to coincide with the magnetic Football Watch Parties. Scheduled two weeks after the start of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster season, the Fests were still brilliant. Pictures of the celebration parties were full of excitement. There is money to spend, but mum is the word.

So the Spiny crustacean was partnered with football, basketball, fishing, vibrant pop-up shops, street-side grilling, creative local dishes, a multi-day "Lobster Crawl", and a Block Party. One could venture to nibble at Lobster-Stuffed Fry Jacks, Lobster Ceviche, Lobster Tacos, Lobster Skewers, a beer garden, cook-offs, Lobster Grilled Cheese, Lobster & Cream Cheese Jalapeño Poppers, Garlic Butter Lobster Tails, and hot Johnny Cakes with lobster, of course, near Open-air stalls for local artists, and listening to Garifuna drumming. Ending this list is impossible. It is endless lobster, lobster, and more lobster. This year, in spite of all three exposés in unison, the Belize economy handled them all.

Following the same formula was the annual Benque Fiesta with its traditional pageantry, mechanical rides, delicious local food galore, sports for all and a variety of pop-up shops that are a mainstay in all events today. The crowds that came to enjoy, listen to music, dance, and enjoy the beverages like juices and special drinks also had a massive screen to watch both the third-place and final World Cup games. So, as our song says, from Belize to Cayo by the hundreds and the thousands, our fellow Belizeans proved without a shadow of a doubt that the UDP sceptics about the economy are dead wrong. People are doing the opposite of suffering; they are enjoying the fruits of a booming Belizean economy.

Belize's economy is experiencing a robust period of growth, driven by an expansion of the tourism and services sectors as well as significant agricultural output. Real GDP growth is alongside a major drop in national debt. The recent economic acceleration in Belize highlights several key sectors and fiscal achievements, namely a record tourism surge which continues to be the primary driver of the economy as it comprises a massive chunk of GDP and net services earnings. The sector has seen double-digit visitor growth, bolstered by both overnight arrivals and strong cruise traffic.

Add to tourism a robust agricultural output, which includes agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and Belizeans are seeing consistent domestic growth and export stability at their table. Want it or not, a low GDP-debt ratio does put more money in people's pockets. BPOs love the economy, so they pump three hundred million dollars into the salaries of some 24 thousand employees who then attend the lobster fests and Benque fiesta—not to mention crowd the Supermarkets, Gourmet Restaurants, and local travelling. Our government is spending record numbers on the National Health Insurance, intercity highway maintenance, building of new hospitals, new transport system and educational infrastructure to further stimulate local growth. All this is only possible when our dollars are allocated by the government and by the people for the betterment of lives.

In economic terms, a booming economy generally causes prices to rise. When businesses and consumers are confident, overall demand increases. If this consumer demand outpaces the available supply of goods and services, businesses will raise prices—this is a concept known as "demand-pull" inflation. What the government has been doing is to ticket businesses that were caught with several types of violations. But it is difficult to police all prices. The best price policemen are the consumers themselves. The consumer has control over whether to purchase or not. Why lower the price if the consumer is paying it? Ask yourself, do I really need this 15-dollar matcha smoothie? Belizeans make that choice every day. The economy roars with the purchasing power of the people.

en Español

La Economía Avanza A Toda Marcha

A menudo, los medios de comunicación y la gente de la calle se burlan del crecimiento del 5,1 % del Producto Interior Bruto de Belice, líder en la región. Esos mismos medios también recorren cientos de millas por autopistas en perfecto estado para fotografiar unos pocos pies cuadrados de asfalto erosionado por la naturaleza implacable. Por supuesto, ignoran las millas que sí resisten. Los medios tienen razón, en el sentido más negativo de la palabra; el público, en general, no puede comprender el PIB ni las tasas de desempleo mientras cena. Explicar la macroeconomía a las masas resulta abrumador, aunque es más fácil de lo que uno podría imaginar. El poder adquisitivo que el crecimiento del PIB y la reducción del desempleo aportan al número sin precedentes de beliceños empleados se refleja en el propio poder adquisitivo de miles de ellos. A medida que la economía ruge, la gente hace valer su dólar mediante su poder económico.

La guerra en Irán provocó un aumento de los precios del petróleo. Esto provocó un alza en los precios de las materias primas vinculadas al combustible. La subida inicial a más de 100 dólares estadounidenses por barril provocó un aumento drástico del precio de la gasolina desde marzo de 2026. El Gobierno puso en marcha medidas para estabilizar los precios del combustible. Es fácil comprobar que el aumento de los precios no ha hecho que la gente deje de utilizar sus vehículos. La euforia inicial provocada por la guerra de Irán se ha ido atenuando hasta situarse en torno a los ochenta dólares por barril, pero los precios en las gasolineras de todo el mundo no han seguido la misma tendencia. Así son los precios: los empresarios se quejan ante la más mínima subida de los costes de aprovisionamiento, pero guardan silencio cuando los precios vuelven a bajar. Las empresas toman decisiones deliberadas y calculadas sobre la oferta y la demanda, y sobre lo que su clientela está dispuesta a pagar. Hoy en día, parece que las decisiones empresariales se toman teniendo en cuenta el bajo nivel de desempleo y el elevado poder adquisitivo.

Tomemos como ejemplo el pasado fin de semana, con la final del Mundial de la FIFA, que en Belice coincidió con el Festival de la Langosta, la Fiesta de Benque y el Día del Manatí en Gales Point. San Pedro, Caye Caulker y Placencia —posiblemente los destinos turísticos más populares de Belice— planificaron sus festivales de la langosta de 2026 para que coincidieran con las atractivas fiestas de fútbol. Aunque se celebraron dos semanas después del inicio de la temporada de langosta espinosa del Caribe, los festivales fueron todo un éxito. Las fotos de las fiestas estaban llenas de emoción. Hay dinero para gastar, pero hay que mantenerlo en secreto.

Así pues, este crustáceo espinoso se combinó con el fútbol, el baloncesto, la pesca, tiendas pop-up animadas, barbacoas callejeras, platos locales creativos, un «Lobster Crawl» de varios días y una fiesta de barrio. Uno podía atreverse a probar los «fry jacks» rellenos de langosta, el ceviche de langosta, los tacos de langosta, las brochetas de langosta, disfrutar de una cervecería al aire libre, concursos de cocina, sándwiches de queso fundido con langosta, poppers de langosta y queso crema con jalapeños, colas de langosta con mantequilla de ajo y, por supuesto, «johnny cakes» calientes con langosta, todo ello cerca de puestos al aire libre de artistas locales y al son de los tambores garífunas. Es imposible poner fin a esta lista. Es langosta sin fin, langosta y más langosta. Este año, a pesar de que las tres exposiciones se celebraron simultáneamente, la economía de Belice supo gestionarlas todas.

Con la misma fórmula, la fiesta anual de Benque se celebró con su tradicional pompa: atracciones mecánicas, abundante comida local, deportes para todos y una variedad de puestos temporales que hoy son imprescindibles en cualquier evento. El público llegó para divertirse, escuchar música, bailar y disfrutar de bebidas como zumos y cócteles especiales, y también contó con una pantalla gigante para ver el partido por el tercer puesto y la final del Mundial. Así, como dice nuestra canción, desde Belice hasta Cayo, cientos y miles de compatriotas demostraron, sin lugar a dudas, que los escépticos del UDP sobre la economía están completamente equivocados. La gente no está sufriendo; al contrario, está disfrutando de los frutos de una economía beliceña en pleno auge.

La economía de Belice atraviesa un sólido periodo de crecimiento, impulsado por la expansión de los sectores turístico y de servicios, así como por una importante producción agrícola. El crecimiento real del PIB va acompañado de una importante reducción de la deuda pública. La reciente aceleración económica en Belice pone de relieve varios sectores clave y logros fiscales, en concreto, un aumento récord del turismo, que sigue siendo el principal motor de la economía, ya que representa una parte considerable del PIB y de los ingresos netos por servicios. El sector ha registrado un crecimiento de dos dígitos en el número de visitantes, impulsado tanto por las pernoctaciones como por el intenso tráfico de cruceros.

Si a esto le sumamos una sólida producción agrícola —que abarca la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca—, los beliceños ven cómo el crecimiento interno constante y la estabilidad de las exportaciones se reflejan en sus mesas. Nos guste o no, una baja relación entre el PIB y la deuda sí implica más dinero en los bolsillos de la gente. A las empresas de externalización de procesos de negocio (BPO) les encanta la economía, por lo que inyectan trescientos millones de dólares en los salarios de unos 24 000 empleados que luego acuden a las fiestas de la langosta y a la fiesta de Benque, por no hablar de que abarrotan los supermercados, los restaurantes gourmet y el turismo local. Nuestro Gobierno está destinando cifras récord al Seguro Nacional de Salud, al mantenimiento de las autopistas interurbanas, a la construcción de nuevos hospitales, a un nuevo sistema de transporte y a infraestructuras educativas para estimular aún más el crecimiento local. Todo esto solo es posible cuando nuestros dólares son asignados por el gobierno y la población para mejorar la calidad de vida.

En términos económicos, una economía en auge suele provocar un aumento de los precios. Cuando las empresas y los consumidores confían, la demanda agregada aumenta. Si la demanda de los consumidores supera la oferta disponible de bienes y servicios, las empresas subirán los precios; esto se conoce como inflación «impulsada por la demanda». Lo que ha estado haciendo el Gobierno es multar a las empresas que han sido sorprendidas cometiendo diversos tipos de infracciones. Pero es difícil controlar todos los precios. Los mejores vigilantes de los precios son los propios consumidores. El consumidor tiene el control sobre si comprar o no. ¿Por qué bajar el precio si es el consumidor quien lo paga? Pregúntate a ti mismo: ¿realmente necesito este batido de matcha de 15 dólares? Los beliceños toman esa decisión cada día. La economía ruge gracias al poder adquisitivo de la gente.

SICA Presidencies

Presidency of SICA

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA 2026 SICA
SICA
Acto de traspaso de la Presidencia Pro Tempore (PPT) del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)

Prime Minister Hon. @JohnBricenobze today officially received the Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) from H.E. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, during the Official Transfer Ceremony held at the SICA General Secretariat in San Salvador.

As Belize assumes this important regional leadership role, Prime Minister Briceño reaffirmed the country's commitment to strengthening regional integration and cooperation. Among the immediate priorities of Belize's Presidency will be fostering the full participation of all Central American member states to advance SICA's shared successes, collective development goals, and regional prosperity.

Belize's delegation was facilitated by H.E. Lou-Anne Burns Martinez, Ambassador of Belize to El Salvador, while Ambassador Amalia Mai, who shares responsibility for SICA affairs, accompanied the Prime Minister.

Presidency of ERDI

July 2, 2026 - The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of E-Governance, has officially assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Ad Hoc Group for the implementation of the SICA Regional Digital Strategy (ERDI) for the July–December 2026 term.

John Robateau, acting Director of the Ministry of E-Governance, will lead the presidency. Belize takes over the leadership from the Dominican Republic, committing to advancing regional integration, digital inclusion, and economic competitiveness across Central America and the Dominican Republic.

"Digital transformation is the tool with which Central America and the Dominican Republic face their challenges in security, governance, and economics," stated Robateau. "Belize assumes this responsibility with the firm conviction that technology is not exclusively a technical matter, but a state policy centred on people, their rights, and their development opportunities."

Belize expressed its gratitude to the Dominican Republic for its previous leadership, which established solid foundations in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), and institutional strengthening. Belize committed to ensuring continuity by following through with the ERDI Action Plan 2024–2026.

During its tenure, Belize's Pro Tempore Presidency will concentrate regional efforts on three core pillars:

• Regional Cybersecurity: safeguarding critical national infrastructure and ensuring citizens can utilize digital technologies with safety and confidence.

• Digital Interoperability: focusing heavily on the cross-border recognition of electronic signatures to streamline administrative procedures and commercial transactions between SICA member countries.

• Artificial intelligence: developing localized AI solutions tailored to regional data and real human needs, guided by shared ethical principles.

Presidency of COMISCA

The Dominican Republic today, July 10th, officially transferred the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA) to Belize, following the conclusion of its six-month leadership period focused on advancing agreements and initiatives to strengthen regional health integration, technical cooperation, and the capacity of health systems across the region.

The handover took place during the LXIII Ordinary Meeting of COMISCA, where the Minister of Public Health of the Dominican Republic, Víctor Atallah, formally transferred the leadership of the organization to Belize's Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard. The transition marks Belize's commitment to continuing a regional agenda built on cooperation, scientific evidence, and collective action.

"Today, we transfer this responsibility to the brotherly people and Government of Belize with the confidence that they will continue advancing this path of integration. The Dominican Republic will continue to actively support this effort, convinced that regional cooperation is the best response to building more resilient health systems and protecting the well-being of our people," stated Minister Víctor Atallah.

Upon assuming the Pro Tempore Presidency, Hon. Kevin Bernard reaffirmed Belize's commitment to advancing the priorities established by COMISCA member states and strengthening regional collaboration. He highlighted that the health challenges facing countries require collective solutions and continued cooperation.

"Belize assumes this responsibility with a firm commitment to cooperation and regional integration. The health challenges our countries face transcend borders. Whether addressing non-communicable diseases, strengthening the health workforce, improving access to essential medicines and health technologies, responding to public health emergencies, or building more resilient health systems, our progress is greater when we work together," said Hon. Kevin Bernard.

The rotation of the COMISCA Pro Tempore Presidency is carried out in accordance with Article 3 of the Regulation of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which establishes that the presidency is held on a six-month rotational basis following the geographic order of Central America.

Central American Tourism Council

BELIZE ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY PRO TEMPORE
of the Central American Tourism Council (CCT) from the Dominican Republic
CXXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CCT - JULY 14, 2026
SITCA
Nicole Usher Solano
Carlos Peguero
BELIZE
CONNECTING PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING INTEGRATION.

On July 14th, 2026, Belize was honored to assume the Presidency Pro Tempore of the Central American Tourism Council (CCT) as part of Belize's broader Presidency Pro Tempore of the Central American Integration System (SICA). We extend our sincere appreciation to the Dominican Republic for its leadership and look forward to working with our regional partners to strengthen tourism integration, sustainability, and resilience across Central America and the Dominican Republic.

During the Council meeting, Member States reflected on the progress achieved over the past six months and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening regional tourism integration, sustainability, and collaboration.

As Belize takes on this important leadership role, we look forward to working closely with our regional partners to advance a stronger, more connected, and more resilient tourism sector across Central America and the Dominican Republic.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its dedicated leadership and thank all Member States and the SITCA Secretariat for their continued partnership. Together, we will continue promoting our region as one of the world's most diverse, authentic, and welcoming tourism destinations. (post)

Legal Aid Standoff Raises Concerns

July 23, 2026 - The decision by the Association of Defence Attorneys (ADA) to stop accepting new court-appointed criminal cases beginning August 1 has sparked concerns about the potential impact on Belize's justice system and the many defendants who rely on legal aid to receive fair representation.

The ADA says the move is necessary because attorneys handling court-appointed criminal matters are paid only BZ$2,000 per case, despite the significant amount of work involved. The association argues that private clients may pay as much as BZ$15,000 for similar matters and has renewed its call for the Government to increase the legal aid stipend to BZ$7,500, a figure attorneys say was previously discussed as a reasonable compromise.

While lawyers have every right to advocate for fair compensation, the announcement has raised questions about the consequences for Belizeans who cannot afford private legal representation. If experienced defence attorneys decline new appointments, the criminal justice system could face delays, and vulnerable defendants may find themselves waiting longer for representation.

ADA member said the decision was not made lightly, explaining that many attorneys have been absorbing travel, accommodation, and other expenses while representing clients across the country. He maintained that the association's objective is not to undermine the courts but to secure a long-promised adjustment that reflects the realities of handling serious criminal matters.

Even so, the planned action highlights the delicate balance between the legitimate concerns of legal professionals and the constitutional right of every accused person to legal representation. Murder trials and other indictable offences often involve extensive preparation, multiple court appearances, and travel to distant districts, making them both time-consuming and costly.

Another issue raised by the ADA is that if experienced criminal defence lawyers refuse new assignments, more complex cases could be given to attorneys with limited experience in indictable matters. According to the association, this could create additional challenges for defendants facing the most serious criminal charges.

The impasse in addressing this longstanding issue of legal aid funding. Ensuring that attorneys receive reasonable compensation while maintaining uninterrupted access to justice is an important responsibility that requires meaningful dialogue rather than prolonged disagreement.

Belize's legal aid system exists to ensure that a person's financial circumstances do not prevent them from receiving a fair trial. Any disruption to that system has implications not only for defendants but also for victims, witnesses, the courts, prosecutors, and the wider public, all of whom depend on the efficient administration of justice.

The current dispute underscores the need for a sustainable legal aid framework that recognizes the work performed by defence attorneys while protecting the constitutional rights of those who cannot afford legal representation. Finding common ground will be essential to preventing unnecessary delays and maintaining public confidence in the justice system.

As the August 1 deadline approaches, many Belizeans will be watching closely in the hope that the Association of Defence Attorneys can reach an agreement that addresses legitimate concerns without compromising access to justice. A resolution that balances fair compensation with the public interest would ultimately serve the legal profession, the courts, and, most importantly, the people of Belize.

Jam-Packed Events
A Sign of a Booming Economy

July 23, 2026 – Belize's economy is receiving a significant boost this summer as festivals, sporting events, retail promotions, and community celebrations continue attracting thousands of residents and international visitors across the country. From the opening of the lobster season along the coast to cultural festivities in the west, these activities are generating business for hotels, restaurants, tour operators, the transportation sector, vendors, and small entrepreneurs, highlighting the important role tourism and local events play in supporting economic growth.

The annual lobster season officially opened on July 1, bringing renewed excitement to Belize's coastal communities. While the Caribbean spiny lobster is the main attraction, the season also marks the beginning of a series of festivals that showcase Belizean cuisine, entertainment, and hospitality. Rather than being a single celebration, Lobster Fest consists of three separate events held in San Pedro, Placencia, and Caye Caulker, each offering a unique atmosphere while celebrating one of the country's most valuable marine resources.

San Pedro Lobster Festival, held from July 1 to 11 on Ambergris Caye, once again attracted large crowds through restaurant specials, the popular Lobster Crawl, block parties, and nightly entertainment. Placencia Lobsterfest followed from July 3 to 5 with its beachfront celebration featuring local food vendors, artisans, musicians, and family-friendly activities. The season continues with the original Caye Caulker Lobster Fest from July 17 to 19, where visitors enjoy a more relaxed island experience centered around fresh seafood and community celebrations.

The economic impact of these festivals extends well beyond the event grounds. Hotels, resorts, Airbnbs, guesthouses, and vacation rentals experienced high occupancy levels, while restaurants, bars, and food vendors benefited from increased customer traffic. Water taxis, domestic airlines, tour operators, charter boats, and fishing

guides also reported busy schedules as both Belizeans and international visitors travelled to enjoy the celebrations. The demand created employment opportunities while generating income for countless small businesses that depend on the country's vibrant tourism industry.

Western Belize has also been enjoying increased economic activity with the return of the Benque Fiesta in Benque Viejo del Carmen. Running from July 16 to 19 at the Cancha Marshalleck, the annual celebration honors the town's patron saint, Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo. The event combines religious traditions with entertainment, including carnival rides, soccer competitions, parades, live bands, fireworks, the Flor de la Feria Pageant, which saw the introduction of our 58th Reina Flor de la Feria, Vinnette Manzanero, and a wide selection of food and beverages. A FIFA Fan Fiesta was also held to watch the World Cup final, Spain v Argentina. The festivities continue drawing families from surrounding communities while providing valuable business opportunities for local vendors and entertainers.

Marine tourism also received a welcome boost during the Grand Caribe 10th Annual Deep Sea Classic fishing tournament held from July 16 to 19. A total of 61 boats competed for top honors and prize money exceeding $45,000. The tournament attracted teams from Belize as well as visiting anglers from Honduras, Mexico, the Cayman Islands, and other countries, creating additional demand for accommodations, restaurants, marinas, fuel suppliers, guides, and other tourism services. Team "Changed My Mind"

Continued on Pg 9

IDB

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

DATA SYSTEMS MANAGER

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID:	BL-T1171 -P00008
Duration:	Twenty-four (24) Months
Duty Station:	Ministry of Finance, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline:	August 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize (GOB), with financing from the European Union (EU) and support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is executing the Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize (BL-T1171) Technical Cooperation Project. The project aims to promote firm-level digitalization to foster economic growth, increase productivity, and improve efficiency across Belize's economy, particularly among MSMEs.

The Ministry of Finance (MOF), through its Central Executing Unit (CEU), intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the Technical Cooperation to engage the contractual services of a Data Systems Manager for the CEU.

The MOF invites suitably qualified individuals to access the full versions of the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) and Terms of Reference at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/, and to submit their application package in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version of the REOI. Eligibility is open to individuals from IDB member countries, EU member countries, and from EU non-member countries that are eligible to be hired with EU funds as established in the current Practical Guide to procurement and grant award procedures for European Union external actions (PRAG). Candidates must be legally able to work in Belize for the duration of the assignment.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: "BL-T1171 – Data Systems Manager- CEU" – [Applicant's Name]

IDB

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Consultancy Services to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize (BL-L1040)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize, Central America
Project:	Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
Process ID:	BL-L1040 – P00048
Deadline:	**August 13th, 2026** at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the – "Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize (TIFP)" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant to conduct the **Midterm Evaluation for the Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize (BL-L1040).**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for expression of interest online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Consultancy Service to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the TIFP Program (BL-L1040)** – Your name

Public advertisement

Selection of an Individual consultant

Water Supply and Modernization Program

Loan No.5754/OC-BL

Consultancy to act as BWS' internal Gender Focal Point

1. The *Government of Belize* (the "Borrower") has *received* financing from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)* (the "Bank") toward the cost of *Water Supply and Modernization Program*. The *Belize Water Services Limited*, an executing agency of the Borrower, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to perform the consulting services (hereinafter called "Services"): *Consultancy to act as BWS' internal Gender Focal Point*. More details on the Services are provided in the Terms of Reference.

2. An individual consultant will be selected under procedures, in accordance with the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Services financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15) which can be found at the following website: www.iadb.org/procurement.

3. Interested eligible consultants may obtain a complete set of documents and further information at the address given below from *Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00. p.m.*

4. Your expression of interest accompanied by your curriculum vitae should be submitted by *31st July 2026*, in writing to the address given below.

Address for requesting documents and information:
Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.
rce@bwsl.com.bz

Address for submitting CV:
Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.
rce@bwsl.com.bz

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

Advertisement

Request for Bids (RFB)

Wastewater Line Relocation, Belcan Bridge

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of *30 June 2026.*

2. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply, installation and commissioning of a wastewater line for *Relocation of Sewer Force main, Belcan Bridge Works* . The delivery/construction period is *90 days from Start Date as specified in Section 4.19 of Bidding Document.*

3. The RFB will be conducted through the Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Belize Water Services' Bidding Document section Eligibility and Qualification Requirements *Section 2.6 and 4.21.*

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Lawrence Young, Sr. Project Manager, Technical Services Department lawrence.young@bwsl.com.bz*

5. Qualification requirements include: *copies of original documents defining the constitution, Power of Attorney, experience in works similar nature and size for the past 5 years and other information as requested in the Bidding Document.*

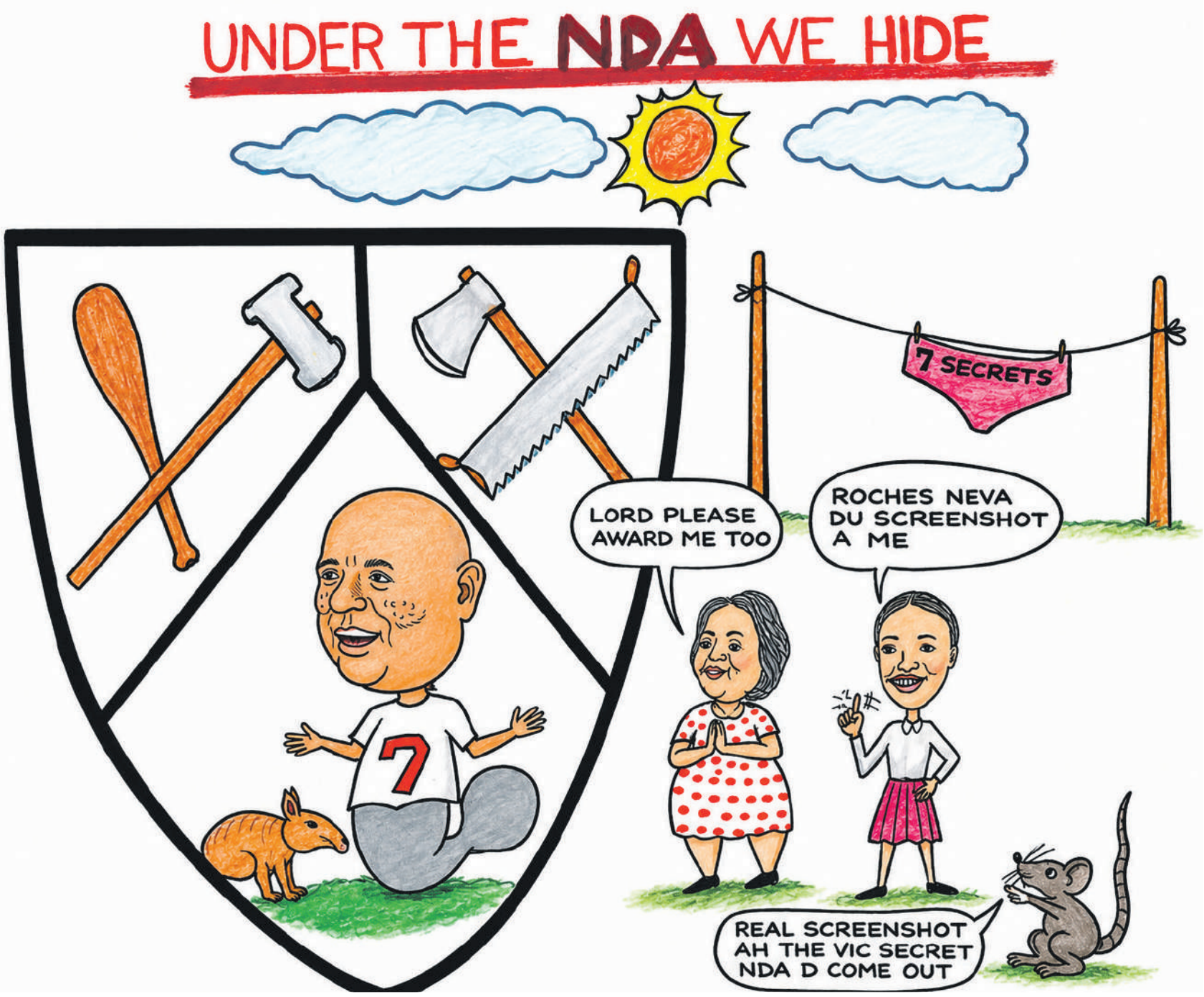
6. A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above. The bidding document will be sent by email.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *3:00 p.m.6th August, 2026.* Electronic bidding *"shall not"* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.

8. The address referred to above is: *Ms. Reina Gonzalez, Technical Services Manager, Belize Water Services Limited, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.*

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

CARTOON


UNDER THE NDA WE HIDE
7 SECRETS
LORD PLEASE AWARD ME TOO
ROCHES NEVA DU SCREENSHOT A ME
REAL SCREENSHOT AH THE VIC SECRET NDA D COME OUT

OW Central and the Prime Minister's —·—Summer Smiles—·—

Ritmo De Oro

Childern Greeted: "Happy Birthday PM"

San Estevan Summer Camp

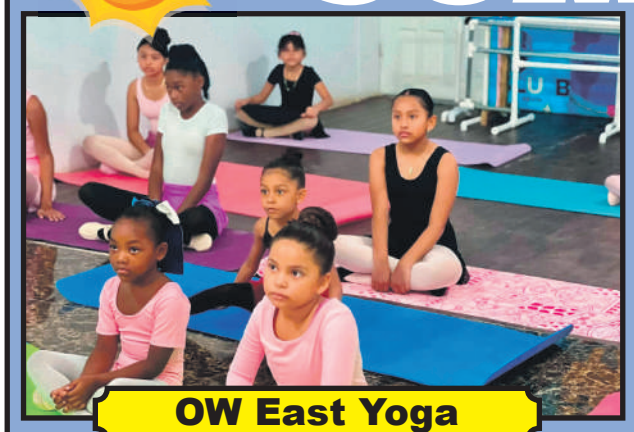
World Cup Watch Party

Belize Youth Movement OWC Meeting

Belize Youth Movement at Drive-In

BELIZE TAX SERVICE
BACK TO SCHOOL
TAX-FREE DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH AND 29TH
The Belize Tax Service is pleased to announce the return of the GST-Free Days School Supplies initiative. During the designated period, eligible school supplies will be exempt from General Sales Tax (GST), making it easier for families to prepare for the upcoming school year. Stay tuned for details, so start planning your back-to-school shopping today!
SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER SMILES



OW East Yoga

BCC Youth Connect Summer Blast

ALL Important Agric

OW East Canva

BCC Youth Connect Summer Blast

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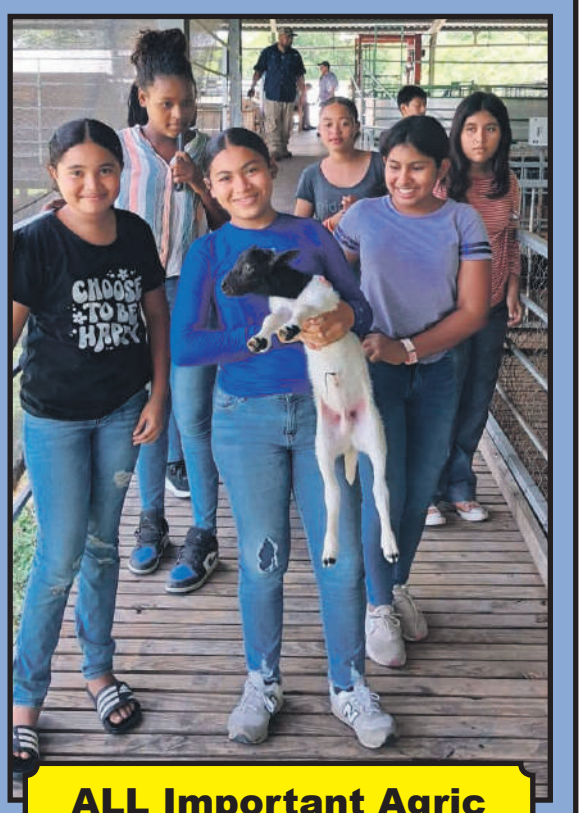


ALL Important Agric

Visiting the Sandy Hunter Library

SMILES for Stella Maris

Freetown Arts & Crafts

NICH Culture

ALL Important Agric

Freetown Sports

2026 National Elite Basketball League

CHAMPION:
Belize City Defenders
CONGRATULATIONS!

A hefty Congratulations is due to the Belize City Defenders on being winning the 2026 National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) Championship!

The NEBL and Belize extend special congratulations to the Orange Walk Running Rebels, whose incredible journey to the Finals "showcased determination, grit, and exceptional basketball." Thank you for making the championship series one to remember for the thousands of basketball lovers.

As another exciting NEBL season closes, the NEBL extends a heartfelt gratitude to:

All participating teams and players; Coaches and team staff members; Our passionate fans who filled the stands and supported the league all season long

The NEBL extends a special thank you to their valued sponsors and partners, whose continued investment makes basketball in Belize possible: this is in large part the government of Belize and the magnanimous support of the Hon. Anthony Mahler.

Thanks go out to the officials, volunteers, and everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

Thank you fans and everyone for making the 2026 NEBL Season an unforgettable success.

Congratulations once again to the 2026 Champions, the Belize City Defenders!

Continues from Pg 2

Rural Communities Receive Support
Fourteen More Get MRT Aid

noting that the furniture represented much more than additional seating. "*Today we receive 30 chairs; these are not just chairs, they are safe and stable for our elders, our clergy members, and our children*."

Santa Cruz Village Chair Nelson Diaz also highlighted the importance of the maintenance equipment. "This equipment we will be using a lot cause the football field and the cemetery are large areas."

Unitedville Village Chair Kent Gabourel expressed appreciation for the support his community received, "*This donation really means a lot to us because every time we used to have functions, we would have to rent or borrow*."

The Ministry also strengthened rural water infrastructure by delivering two 10,000-litre water tanks to the Bullet Tree Waterboard. The additional storage capacity is expected to improve the reliability of the village's water supply while supporting future expansion as demand continues to grow.

At the same time, the Unitedville Waterboard received water meters that will help extend service to new households and improve water management through responsible consumption. MRT noted that improved metering will assist with monitoring usage, ensuring fair distribution, and supporting the long-term sustainability of the village's water network.

Following the Belmopan ceremony, the Ministry travelled to Valley Community in the Stann Creek District to deliver essential roofing materials to the Village Council. The supplies will be used to renovate the Valley Community Center, creating an upgraded venue for meetings, social gatherings, and community programmes while improving the building's resilience during hurricanes and other severe weather events. Once completed, the facility will also provide a safer emergency shelter for residents when necessary.

The Ministry said the project aligns with the National Rural Development Strategy, which emphasizes working directly with village councils to strengthen community infrastructure and improve the well-being of rural families. By investing in facilities that serve multiple purposes throughout the year, the initiative aims to build stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development and Local Government Oscar Requena encouraged village leaders to care for the equipment so future generations could continue benefiting from the investment. "*We believe in empowering our people; we believe in supporting. I ask that you put in place a maintenance programme. We want to ensure longevity so that this equipment can serve you and others after*," he said.

The latest handovers demonstrate the Ministry's continued focus on providing practical resources that improve everyday life in rural Belize. From maintaining public spaces and expanding water services to upgrading community facilities, these investments are expected to strengthen local capacity and help village councils better meet the needs of the people they serve while supporting sustainable community development nationwide.

WHAT IS PHYSICAL ABUSE
PHYSICAL ABUSE INVOLVES THE INTENTIONAL USE OF FORCE THAT CAUSES HARM OR PLACES ANOTHER PERSON AT RISK OF INJURY.
IT MAY INCLUDE:
HITTING
SLAPPING OR PUNCHING
KICKING
PUSHING OR SHOVING
ANY ACT THAT CAUSES PHYSICAL HARM OR FEAR OF PHYSICAL HARM
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND FEAR.
UNDERSTANDING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (PROHIBITION) BILL, 2026
SLIDE 7 OF 13

Jam-Packed Events A Sign of a Booming Economy

claimed the championship after an exciting weekend of competition.

Retail businesses are also benefiting from increased consumer spending. Hundreds of Belizeans recently took advantage of the Mirab Clearance Sale, with shoppers searching for discounted merchandise/ the right deal. The strong turnout reflected healthy consumer confidence and demonstrated continued circulation of money within the local economy, benefiting both businesses and employees.

Looking ahead, economic momentum is expected to continue with the upcoming Hopkins Day 2026 celebrations. Scheduled for July 31 to August 2 at the Old School Grounds, the event will be held under the theme "Rooted in Culture, Rising in Unity." Visitors can expect cultural displays, musical performances, beach activities, sporting competitions, and entertainment highlighting the rich Garifuna heritage of Hopkins Village. Local artists, artisans, food vendors, and community organizations are expected to benefit from the increased visitor traffic throughout the three-day celebration. Also on August 1, 2026, the Belmopan Day (The 822 Experience) concert and art walk at Mae Gordon Park features Supa G, Taprick, Vida Magz, and Newani Martinez.

Together, these festivals and community events demonstrate that Belize's economy is being supported by more than traditional tourism alone. Cultural celebrations, sporting competitions, retail promotions, and local festivals continue to create opportunities for entrepreneurs, generate employment, and encourage domestic spending while showcasing the country's diverse attractions. As communities continue welcoming visitors throughout the summer, the steady flow of economic activity reinforces the importance of investing in events that celebrate Belize's culture, natural resources, and people while strengthening livelihoods across the nation. - EF

WHY UPDATE BELIZE'S BROADCASTING LAW?

The way Belizeans receive news, information and entertainment has changed — and our broadcasting laws must evolve with it.

For decades, broadcasting primarily meant radio and television. Today, the media landscape also includes streaming and online broadcasting services. The proposed Broadcasting Bill and Regulations seek to modernize Belize's broadcasting framework so that it reflects this new reality.

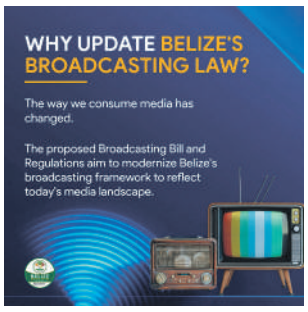
An important point needs to be clear:

This is NOT about regulating the everyday use of social media.

The proposed legislation establishes a specific category of National Online Broadcasters and provides a framework for licensing and exemptions. It is intended to address services that operate as broadcasters — not ordinary Belizeans using Facebook, TikTok, YouTube or other social media platforms for personal use.

The objective is to create a modern, fair and accountable broadcasting environment, where those operating as media and broadcasting services are guided by appropriate standards and responsibilities.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT
REGULATING EVERYDAY
SOCIAL MEDIA USE.
The proposed Bill introduces a legal category called a National Online Broadcaster and sets out a framework for licensing and exemptions within that category.
It is intended to regulate broadcasting services defined by the legislation, not the everyday personal use of social media.


WHY UPDATE BELIZE'S
BROADCASTING LAW?
The way we consume media has changed.
The proposed Broadcasting Bill and Regulations aim to modernize Belize's broadcasting framework to reflect today's media landscape.

Get the facts. Read the proposed legislation. Be informed. Have your say.

The Belize Broadcasting Authority remains committed to consultation, transparency and the responsible modernization of Belize's broadcasting framework. (BBA)

Summer Smiles 2026
CAYO CENTRAL AGRIC CAMP

The Annual Cayo Central Agricultural Summer Camp, proudly sponsored by Hon. Alex Balona, Area Representative for Cayo Central had an exciting opening and activities.

With over 100 enthusiastic children in attendance, this year's camp promises an unforgettable week filled with fun, learning, teamwork, and hands-on agricultural experiences. From July 20th to July 24th, 2026, our young participants will enjoy exciting educational activities designed to inspire a love for agriculture, leadership, and community.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated volunteers, organizers, parents, and supporters who have made this initiative possible.

Here's to a week filled with laughter, learning, new friendships, and lasting memories!

Hon. Balona & Hon. Bernard are the just two examples of representatives helping to educate the young out of the formal school setting. Education goes on even during the summer.

Maya Immersive (NICH)

This was an exciting start to a week of discovery!

Our young explorers had the opportunity to tour the Maya Creating Civilization exhibit, where they learned about how the Maya were fascinating Geologist for their time. Under today's theme, "Geology Meets Archaeology," campers discovered how the ancient Maya used rocks, minerals, and other natural resources to build and sustain one of the world's greatest civilizations. The kids learned how the Maya's knowledge of the Earth's resources played a vital role in their architecture, tools, and daily life.

A very special thank you to Deputy Director Trisha Fitzpatrick from the Department of Geology and Petroleum for sharing her expertise and inspiring our future scientists and historians. Your engaging presentation made today's learning experience both educational and memorable. (NICH)

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in accordance with Section 57 (1) of the Central Bank of Belize Act, Revised Edition 2020, intends to appoint an external auditor for the audit of its financial statements for the upcoming three-year cycle commencing January 1, 2027.

The Central Bank invites eligible public accounting firms licensed to practice in Belize to submit tenders comprising technical and financial proposals. To be considered for the award, firms must demonstrate previous experience in providing auditing services to medium or large size organizations.

Tenders must be submitted to the Central Bank and received no later than 4:00 p.m. on 7 August 2026.

Submissions must be made via email to:

Email address: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz
Subject Line: "Firm Name" - Tender for Auditing Services

The Bank reserves the right to request additional information and to decline to accept any or all proposals.

For inquiries regarding the scope of work, please contact the Chief Internal Auditor, Central Bank of Belize, at phone number: (501) 223-6194 or email: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz. A "Guideline for Audit Bidding" sheet will be provided upon request.

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SOUTH OF COTTON TREE VILLAGE

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to execute the Street Construction Project South of Cotton Tree Village in the Cayo District.

Provided there are no delays, Works are expected to start within a month. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors with experience in road and street construction to be part of this bidding process.

The Scope of Works will include:

- Site Clearing & Grubbing
- Removal of Topsoil
- Structural Fill (Provisional)
- Subbase and Base Layers
- New Culvert Construction
- Construction of V-Drains

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in road and street construction of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 3 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in Road and Street Construction
- Contract Management Experience: 3 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $100,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$250,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 3 years' experience

Effective **Monday 27 July 2026**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$250.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant and be clearly marked "**Bid Submission for the Street Construction Project South of Cotton Tree Village**".

All Bidding Documents shall reach the office of the Chief Engineer/Engineering Coordinator at the address below no later than **Friday 7 August 2026** at **10:00 a.m**. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

A site visit will be held on **Thursday 30 July 2026** at **10:00am** at the project site. Bidders shall congregate at the Cotton Tree Primary School.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.
Tel: +501-828-5221
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

HRCU

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBER-OWNERS

HRCU will be closed on

Monday August 3, 2026

for implementation of a new software system

We apologize for any inconvenience

www.hrcubelize.org

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED

...making a difference in people's lives!

IMPORTANT: SYSTEM UPGRADE NOTICE

Service Downtime:
From **Friday July 31, 2026** at **4:15 PM** through **Saturday August 1, 2026** at **5:00 PM,** the following services will be temporarily unavailable:

- **Online Banking** *(includes internal and Bank-to-Bank/Credit Union transfers)*
- **Foreign ATM/POS Transactions** *(Heritage Bank, POS, and other Credit Unions)*

Services Available:

- **HRCU ATMs** *(Main office, Belmopan, and Mango Creek office)* will remain available; **however,** there may be service interruptions during the upgrade window.

We expect **full-service restoration by Saturday 5:00 PM** and HRCU will open to the public until **Tuesday August 4, 2026.**

Thank you for your patience as we work to make your experience with HRCU even better.

To avoid any inconveniences, conduct all your transactions before the upgrade schedule.

www.hrcubelize.org (501) 280-4320 onlinebanking@hrcubelize.org

PlanBelize 2.0

Party Leader PM John Briceño & OW Town Council

Reading Program

Min. Requena (Tol. West), Rural Transformation

Water Flowing in Jalacte

Aid to 14 more Villages

Min. Fonseca(Freetown), MoECST

STEAM Festival a success

Min. Musa (CShores), Immigration

Recognizing Outstanding Immigration Officers

Min. Chebat(Cayo North), MPUEL

Unveiling Commemorative stamps

Belize City Council

Welcoming UWI Arts Steel, and Arts Chorale

Belmopan City Council

Summer Jobs Program Ph1

Motorcycle Repair Training

Min. Julius Espat(Cayo S), MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

Drains and Ditches in Red Bank

Massive Culverts in Santa Teresa

Dangriga

Maintenance of Philip Goldson Highway

'Vamos Bien en 2026'

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

THE MEDIA, THE PROXY OPPOSITION

By Hilly Bennett

"A Weak Media and a Weak Opposition go Hand in Hand. One cannot be Strong without the other" Maya Mirchandani

Recently, since questions have surfaced regarding the procurement processes and Smartstream invoices at the required legal threshold of $10,000, the UDP-affiliated media has been acting as the proxy opposition. This is a common phenomenon in democratic politics when the traditional political opposition is weak. Legendary editor of The Times of India, Francis Robert "Frank" Moraes, suggested that in a democracy, when the opposition is ineffective or fragmented, it is the job of the press to act as a strong opposition to the ruling party.

It is abundantly clear that the Leader of the Opposition (LOO) Tracy Taeger-Panton has lost the confidence of the rank and file UDPs, as was revealed in the lack of support and the meagre turnout in her feeble attempt to rally the masses against the government. A slew of attacks on her leadership came from hardcore members of the UDP, including Alberto August and the former LOO, Shyne Moses Barrow, who cited incompetence and acts of corruption as their reason. It is the belief that Tracy does not have the competency or the political oomph to resurrect the red regime from the political ashes of defeat, following the People's United Party (PUP) supermajority victory of 2020, followed by a similar result in 2025, illustrating the massive voter support for the democratically elected, Grandest, Greatest Party, the PUP. That support indicates another massive defeat of the UDP in the upcoming Municipal Elections in March 2027.

However, Belizean society is witnessing today an attack on democracy as Jules Vazquez of Channel 7 leads the charge, along with Wave Wuss Ting Dah Mawnin, with host Joe and Juliet and Paul Lopez of the CashCraft foundation, in trying to undermine the leadership of the Prime Minister, John Briceño. Seemingly, the press itself has become politicised, becoming oppositional actors, and their bright red Victoria's Secret are evidently showing.

The sporadic, viral newsspin of the procurement situation, the criticism of the Defence Attorney Association of the configuration of the Sitting Justices and the lamentation of former Chief Magistrate Sharon Frazier for not being selected, and Jerry Enriquez filing a claim regarding filling the post of the Ombudsman, as Retired Major Gilbert Swazo's contract ended, are not happenstance. It is the proxy opposition media taking the adversarial role of the inept United Democratic Party.

Jules is requesting details of the companies mentioned regarding the procurement situation, notwithstanding that PM Briceño has taken decisive action to have the Auditor General audit the Ministry of Defence and the Belize Defence Force (BDF) from 2015 to date. Jules' request could compromise the investigative audit. Incidentally, there has been a request on numerous occasions for the Non-Disclosure Agreement between BTL and Net Vasquez, due to a scandal over his corporate credit card use and granting of contracts to favouried entities, to no avail. Although this PUP Government has retained the ownership of BTL for the people of Belize. Go figure!

The politically inclined UDP media must be reminded that procurement issues plagued the Dean Barrow administration twice. In 2010, the UDP Government amended the Finance and Audit Reform Act because of procurement violations. At one time, Dean Barrow considered the penalties a slap on the wrist, but was convicted for violation of his own amendment and then again, an amendment was made to the Stores Order (Amendment) Regulation 2017 in 2018, fixing the procurement threshold to $10, 000.

Speaking on the BDF procurement situation, Hon Francis Fonseca made it abundantly clear that "Coming out of this exercise, there will be very clear recommendations, and those recommendations shouldn't come from politicians." Alluding to the fact that those recommendations should come from the technical people, the Financial Secretary and his team. Fonseca cemented the point that the People's United Party Government is handling the issue responsibly and that they are not hiding anything. Consequently, there is a full comprehensive investigation into the matter. The Auditor General is engaged, and based on the final report, the Prime Minister will decide. Importantly, PM Briceno has expressed that the decision will be on the side of the people. Emphasising, "Let the chips fall where they may." This is leadership, a leadership that has brought Belize from the doldrums of the 13 years of a failing, incompetent, corrupt John Crow UDP. A leadership which no media proxy opposition will replace.

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE *SUBMITS APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION CANDIDACY*

In an announcement on Monday, July 13, 2026, the University of Belize (UB) officially applied for Accreditation Candidacy with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC is the authority that accredits higher education institutions across the United States and parts of the Caribbean.

It is considered a historic step by the university towards international accreditation that could strengthen the global recognition of its degrees, expand opportunities for students and faculty, and reinforce its role in advancing Belize's national development.

Imbued with elation, the President of UB, Dr. Vincent Palacio, remarked, *"This is a historic day for the University of Belize."* Adding, *"Our submission represents a culmination of years of work to strengthen our academic and administrative system and position UB to meet internationally recognised standards of excellence. Today, we have taken a decisive step towards our vision of becoming an internationally accredited university."*

According to the University of Belize post, UB's candidacy application involved strengthening institutional effectiveness, faculty credentialing, the enhancement of academic and administrative policies, and quality assurance throughout the institution.

While UB is awaiting the next phase of the accreditation process with SACSCOC undertaking a comprehensive review of the application before determining the university's candidacy status, the milestone moment should not be relegated to mere footnotes.

Continued on page 17

CABEI
Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Specific Procurement Notice
Construction and Equipment of Corozal Police Station
N.º CABEI-WKS-003-2147/2026
One Stage-One Envelope

Date: July 24, 2026

1. SOURCE OF RESOURCES

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total financing for the Procurement for the Construction of a Police Station in Corozal Town, within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

2. EXECUTING AGENCY AND BUYER OF THE BIDDING PROCESS

2.1 The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is the Executing Agency of the Contracting Party, intends to use a portion of the funds of this financing to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this Invitation to Bid is being issued.

2.2 The Belize Integral Security Programme, is responsible for the present Procurement Process for which it invites eligible construction companies to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

2.3 The Contractor will be selected and awarded in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, (DI-52/2020 and PRE-40/2021) which can be found on the following web site: https://www.bcie.org.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 General Objectives of the Procurement is to construct a new police station in Corozal Town.

3.2 The Contracting Party makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

a. *Bidding package can be requested from the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), Project Executing Unit, 1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit # 3, Belmopan City, at: corozal_wks002.bisp@met.gov.bz and copy: projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz and projectengineer.bisp@met.gov.bz and adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz*

There is no cost to obtain the bidding documents.

Bids for this invitation to bid shall be received no later than Wednesday August 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the following physical address:

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2nd, Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

3.3 Bids must be sent to the address below, no later than **August 26, 2026, on or before 10:00 a.m. Bids will not be permitted in electronic form. No late bids will be accepted.** Bids shall be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder and any person who decides to attend, at the address listed below, on **August 26, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.**

3.4 All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Maintenance Declaration.**

The address mentioned above is:

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2nd, Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

ST. JUDE R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, CAMALOTE VILLAGE, CAYO DISTRICT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), is committed to enhancing educational opportunities at St. Jude R.C. Primary School in Camalote Village, Cayo District. This initiative, known as "the Project," aims to construct new classroom spaces, thereby improving access to quality education for the students. The new facility will comprise of seven (7) classrooms with supporting administrative, sanitary, and circulation spaces over two storeys.

Provided there are no delays, the Project is expected to commence in July 2026. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors to be a part of this bidding process. The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). A Project Engineer within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The scope of works will include:

- Undertaking preliminary and site establishment works
- Construction of foundation
- Construction of beams
- Construction of slabs
- Construction of columns
- Construction of walls
- Construction of roof
- Construction of ceiling
- Construction of stair and ramp
- Undertaking finishing works
- Supply and installation of doors
- Supply and installation of windows
- Undertaking plumbing installations
- Undertaking electrical installations
- Supply and installation of furniture and classroom fixtures

Consideration will be given to local contractors that possess qualified experience in building construction projects of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- Provision of audited or unaudited financial statements for the years ending 2022, 2023, and 2024
- General Construction Experience: Five (5) years
- Specific Construction Experience: Complete, between January 1, 2015, and the bid submission deadline, less than or equal to four (4) contracts, each with a minimum value of Bz$150,000.00, but with a total value of all contracts equal to or more than Bz$600,000.00. The similarity of the contracts shall be based on new construction works for a structure that possesses greater than or equal to 3,000 square feet.
- Access to Line of Credit: Bz$200,000.00 of which not more than Bz$100,000.00 can be credit for materials.
- Average annual construction turnover for the years ending 2022, 2023, and 2024 of a minimum of Bz$400,000.00 per year.
- Project manager who is an Association of Professional Engineers of Belize (APEB) registered Engineer with 5 years of construction management experience as a registered Engineer.

Effective **Monday 27 July 2026**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$250.00** from the address below.

There are two options for submitting the bidding information. These are:

(a) By electronic submission, in pdf format, to the email address indicated below. The submission will be deemed to have been received at the time that it is received by the PEU. The burden of proving receipt of the email will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the bidder's computer; or

(b) By submission of one original and one hard copy, by hand or by registered mail, in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

All Bidding Documents shall reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Friday 7 August 2026,** at **10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not be bound to assign any reason for not qualifying any contractor and shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

A site visit will be conducted on **Thursday 30 July 2026** at **10:00 am** at the project site in Camalote Village, Cayo District.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.
Tel: +501-828-5221
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Philatelist's Joy via MPUEL - BPS

Stamps: "Celebrating Belize"

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics, in collaboration with the Belize Postal Service, proudly hosted the official launch of the 2026–2030 Belize Definitive Stamp Collection, themed "Celebrating Belize."

The ceremony marked the unveiling of a new series of definitive stamps that showcase Belize's rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, national symbols, and natural beauty. More than just postage, these stamps serve as ambassadors for our nation, carrying the story of Belize to destinations around the world while preserving our identity through one of the world's oldest and most enduring forms of communication.

During the ceremony, Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics, remarked: *"Today, we celebrate much more than the release of eleven new postage stamps. We celebrate the people, traditions, milestones, achievements, and shared experiences that define us as Belizeans."*

The event also featured welcome remarks by Dr. Marsha Price, Postmaster General, who highlighted the enduring role of definitive stamps in preserving a nation's identity and connecting communities across generations.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our partners, members of the philatelic community, invited guests, and everyone who joined us in celebrating this important milestone.

The 2026–2030 Belize Definitive Stamp Collection is a proud celebration of our people, our heritage, and the beauty that makes Belize truly unique. (release)

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE
SUBMITS APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION CANDIDACY

Continued from page 15

Tertiary education provides an important platform for the globalisation of Goods and services.

According to Khaled El-Enany, UNESCO Director-General, *"This new report shows increasing demand for higher education, which plays an irreplaceable role in building sustainable societies."* The report indicates that UNESCO's first Higher Education Global Trend Report shows that the number of students enrolled in higher education worldwide has more than doubled over the past two decades, reaching 269 million in 2024.

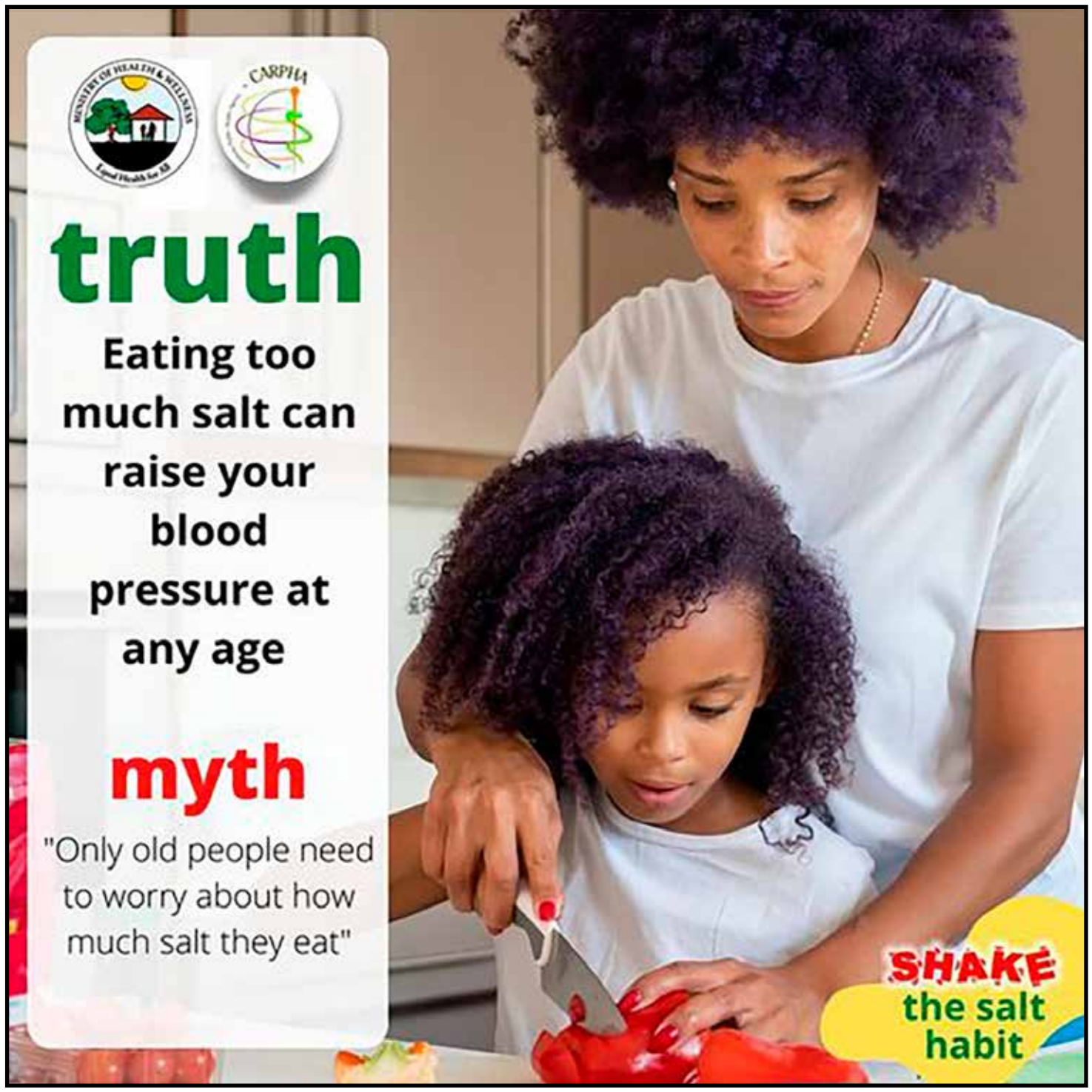
In a literary contribution circa March 2004 submitted in a UB publication series, titled A New Venue for Strategic Development and Growth: Development of Tertiary Education as a Sector of the Economy of Belize, co-authored by Dr. Nancy Adamson, Vice President, Galen University, and Dr. Geraldo Flowers, Director of Development, University of Belize, *"Belize has significant potential to develop as an educational centre attracting International students from around the world. Its greatest advantages are the stable political conditions, the use of the English language, its geographic location and close ties with both the United States and the United Kingdom."*

The writers posited that developing tertiary education as a sector of the Belizean economy would necessitate the establishment of a new policy by the Government of Belize and a collaboration with the educational institutions of Belize, the Ministry of Education, Foreign Affairs, Finance, the Ministry of Immigration, and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB). Importantly, the article suggests that aside from the economic benefits, tertiary education will reverse the brain-drain that has been plaguing Belize, stimulate entrepreneurship, the development of other industries, and bring positive effects to education at all levels, health, and society at large. Currently, International students contribute $42.9 billion to the US economy and £45.1 billion in total economic benefits.

Understandably, it is evident from the March 2004 article that the need for the application for accreditation has been ongoing to develop Belize's tertiary institutions to become the educational centre for attracting foreign students from around the world. Additionally, the University of Belize is in the process of finalising its submission to secure provisional accreditation from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions, or CAAM-HP.

Clearly, Belize is on the cusp of maximising the role of education in fostering economic growth and advancing Belize's national development, and the application for Accreditation Candidacy with the SACSCOC is truly a historic moment for the University of Belize.

By Hilly Bennett


truth
Eating too much salt can raise your blood pressure at any age
myth
"Only old people need to worry about how much salt they eat"
SHAKE
the salt
habit

GOB Expresses Solidarity Following Ferry Tragedy in Guyana

Belmopan, July 19, 2026.

Late on Saturday, July 18, 2026, a ferry which departed from Georgetown, Guyana, carrying one hundred and sixteen passengers and seventeen crew members, capsized in rough waves. The latest reports indicate that sixty-seven persons have been rescued, and a massive search-and-rescue effort is currently underway for those who remain missing.

On behalf of the people of Belize, Hon. John Briceño and the Government of Belize extend prayers of hope for the safe rescue of those still missing off the coast of Guyana and offer comfort to the families awaiting the return of their loved ones.

The thoughts of the people of Belize are with the people of Guyana as they grapple with this tragedy. (Government release)

July 23 update - Guyana ferry disaster: families demand answers as around 100 feared dead (Al Jazeera Staff)

Officials say 76 of the roughly 179 people believed to have been aboard survived, and 53 bodies have been found so far.

The expected death toll from Guyana's ferry disaster over the weekend has climbed to around 100, with the authorities facing mounting pressure to explain how the country's worst maritime disaster in decades occurred.

Officials said on Tuesday that 76 of the roughly 179 people believed to have been aboard survived, while 53 bodies have been recovered as divers continue searching for the remaining missing.

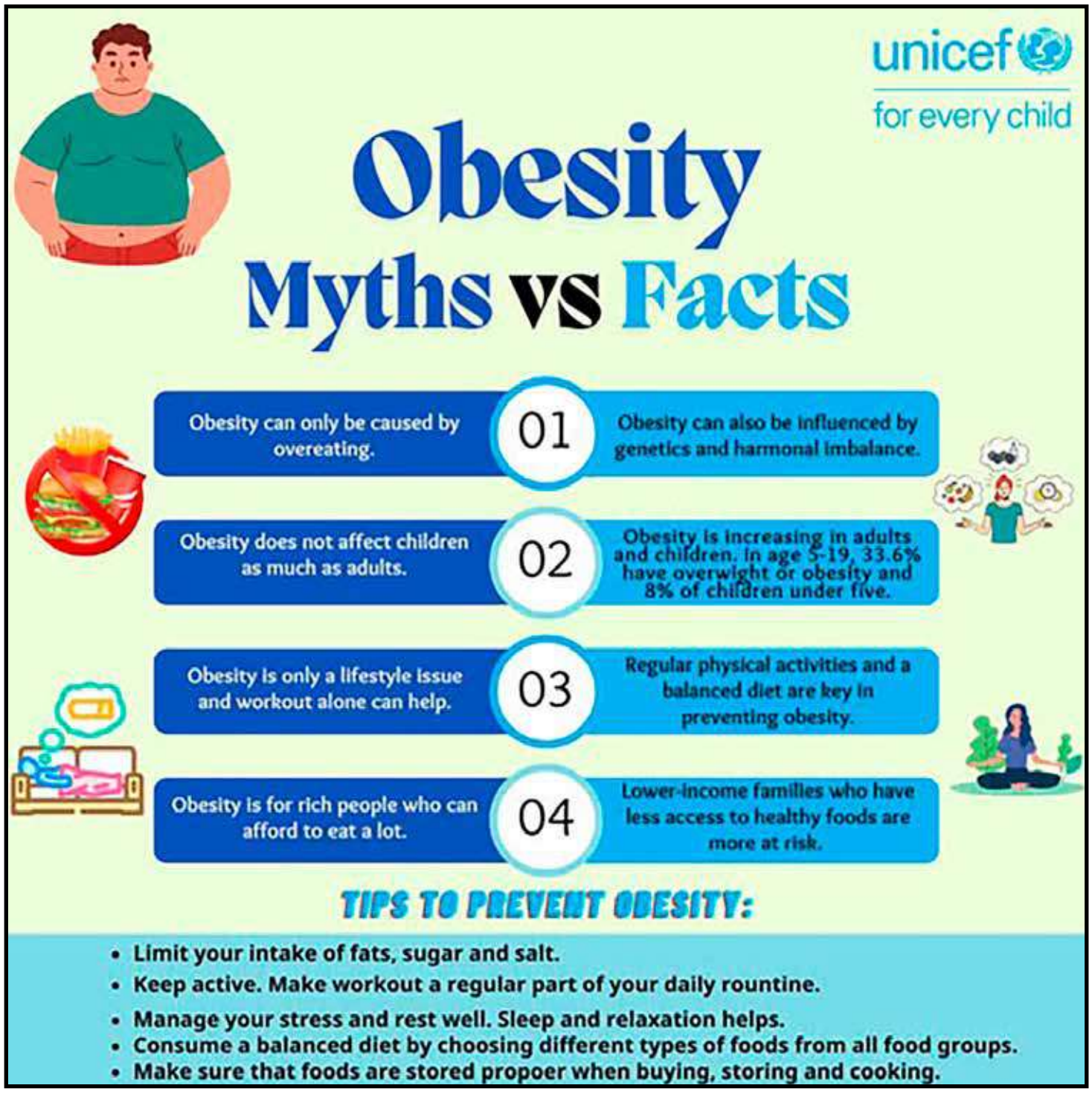
Inauguration Critical ITVET Rehabilitation Project

Stann Creek campus in Hope Creek

The inauguration of the Stann Creek ITVET campus in Hope Creek Village was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, following a critical BZ$1.4 million rehabilitation project.

The extensive upgrade, which took approximately one year to complete, renovated the institution's buildings, restrooms, and administration areas, with an emphasis on addressing past roofing issues. Implemented by the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, this initiative was funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) under the Basic Needs Trust Fund 10th Programme (BNTF 10), enhancing the technical and vocational training capabilities needed to drive human resource development across southern Belize.(post)

The inauguration marks another investment in Belize's push to education our population to a level that will provide relevant expertise to the workforce and a better livelihood to many Belizeans.


unicef
for every child
Obesity
Myths vs Facts
Obesity can only be caused by overeating.
01
Obesity can also be influenced by genetics and harmonal imbalance.
Obesity does not affect children as much as adults.
02
Obesity is increasing in adults and children. In age 5-19, 33.6% have overwight or obesity and 8% of children under five.
Obesity is only a lifestyle issue and workout alone can help.
03
Regular physical activities and a balanced diet are key in preventing obesity.
Obesity is for rich people who can afford to eat a lot.
04
Lower-income families who have less access to healthy foods are more at risk.
TIPS TO PREVENT OBESITY:
Limit your intake of fats, sugar and salt.
Keep active. Make workout a regular part of your daily rountine.
Manage your stress and rest well. Sleep and relaxation helps.
Consume a balanced diet by choosing different types of foods from all food groups.
Make sure that foods are stored propoer when buying, storing and cooking.

FIRST STEAM FESTIVAL HOSTED IN SAN IGNACIO!

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology held the first of its kind STEAM Festival in San Ignacio this past weekend.

The event showcased the potential of the Women in 4iR Component of the Skills for the Future Program as students presented their innovative solutions to community challenges using fundamental lessons in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

This initiative creates targeted opportunities for young women to develop the critical knowledge, confidence, and technical skills necessary to thrive in the rapidly evolving landscape of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4iR).

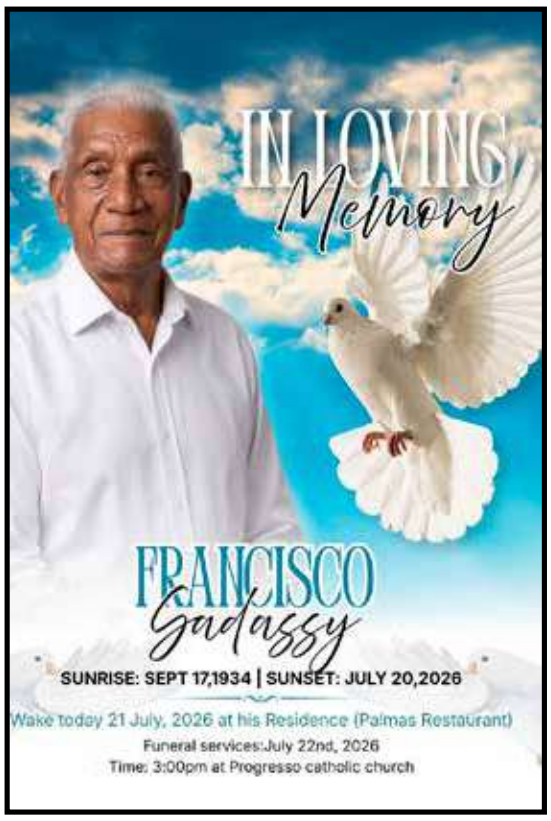
Supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and developed in collaboration with the Education Development Center (EDC), the programme aims to reach approximately 1,000 primary and secondary female students across Belize, actively encouraging them to pursue higher studies and sustainable career paths in STEAM.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Global Partnership for Education

Inter-American Development Bank

Education Development Center


IN LOVING Memory
FRANCISCO Sadassy
SUNRISE: SEPT 17,1934 | SUNSET: JULY 20,2026
Wake today 21 July, 2026 at his Residence (Palmas Restaurant)
Funeral services:July 22nd, 2026
Time: 3:00pm at Progresso catholic church

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

CONDUCT SUPERVISION EXAMINER

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner, Conduct Supervision is responsible for conducting off-site surveillance of moneylenders, with a particular focus on conduct supervision, consumer protection, and regulatory compliance. The role also supports the Central Bank's risk-based supervisory framework through the analysis of financial and operational information and the handling of customer complaints.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct off-site surveillance and assess compliance with the Moneylenders Act, Moneylenders Regulations, Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and other applicable legislation governing regulated institutions.
- Process applications for new moneylender licenses and license renewals.
- Review and analyze semi-annual regulatory returns and financial information to assess the financial condition, operations, and risk profile of moneylenders.
- Prepare analytical reports, regulatory assessments, Board information papers, and other supervisory reports.
- Monitor institutions subject to enhanced supervisory oversight and recommend appropriate regulatory action where necessary.
- Analyze audited financial statements and assess the accuracy of regulatory submissions.
- Manage and coordinate customer complaints received by the Supervision Department to ensure timely investigation and resolution.
- Draft regulatory correspondence and contribute to the development of supervisory regulations, guidelines, and policies.
- Advise on emerging risks impacting the status and performance of moneylenders and recommend appropriate action.
- Liaise with internal departments and external stakeholders on supervisory and regulatory matters.
- Perform other duties related to the functions of the Supervision Department.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognized university; three (3) years of relevant experience would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Unions Act, Moneylenders Act, Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and their accompanying regulations; Understanding of risk management, financial analysis, and supervisory practices; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication, Analytical Ability, Job knowledge, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Quality of Output, Deportment, Customer Focus, Initiative, and Interpersonal Relations.

Submit the following documents by Wednesday, 5 August 2026:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) current professional references
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Only applicants selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Conduct Supervision Examiner- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

1x weekly | Beginning December 14, 2026

"The launch of WestJet's new Winnipeg–Belize City service is an important step in strengthening air connectivity between Canada and Belize, and a strong signal of confidence in our destination's continued growth. Canada is one of Belize's most important international markets, and with this new route complementing WestJet's existing service from Toronto and Calgary, Canadians now have more access than ever to everything Belize has to offer. Greater air access is the cornerstone of tourism growth, and we are excited to welcome more Canadian travelers to discover Belize's vibrant culture and our legendary reef-to-rainforest experiences through this deepening partnership with WestJet." **- Hon. Anthony Mahler, Belize Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations**

belize
Closer Than Ever!
WestJet now connects Winnipeg to Belize with weekly nonstop flights starting December 14, 2026
Escape to Belize this winter!
Starting Winter 2026

Announcement

WESTJET New Route

Belize City – Winnipeg, Canada

WHY UPDATE BELIZE'S BROADCASTING LAW?
The way we consume media has changed.
The proposed Broadcasting Bill and Regulations aim to modernize Belize's broadcasting framework to reflect today's media landscape.

Bulls for Small Scale Farmers

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries Hon. Rodwell Ferguson today handed over ten breeding bulls to small-scale cattle farmers.

The handing over ceremony took place at the Central Farm Livestock Unit, with the Ministry of Agriculture collaborating with the Belize Livestock Producers' Association (BLPA) to provide quality breeding bulls to ten selected small-scale farmers, two of which were women. The farmers selected by the BLPA were able to purchase the animals for $2,000 each, with the Ministry meeting the balance of each bull's price, which adds up to $700 or more per bull.

The handing over is part of the Ministry's initiative to help improve the national herd by helping small farmers access improved breeding stock and strengthen the cattle industry by improving genetics and sustainable, environmentally safe production practices. (post)

BLUE BOND and Finance Permanence Unit
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

"Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources"

Procurement of Uniforms for the Belize Forest Department

The Government of Belize has received financing through the Government Strategic Allocation from the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future and intends to apply a portion of the funds to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this invitation is being issued.

The *Blue Bonds and Finance Permanence Unit*, on behalf of the Belize Forest Department hereby invites sealed offers from eligible and qualified Suppliers to submit a quotation for the following items:

Qty.	Items	Color	Place of Delivery
48	Women's long sleeve shirt (UPV 50+ protective long sleeve with dry fit technology)	Dark Stone or Cirrus Grey	Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit 3rd Floor Eleanor Hall Lake Independence Boulevard Belize City, Belize
3	Women's long sleeve shirt plus size (UV protective long sleeve shirt) 3X	Dark Stone or Cirrus Grey	
90	Men's long sleeve shirt (UV protective long sleeve)	Fossil or Cool Grey	
62	Uniform Pants Male (Rugged, durable, that can be worn in the field if necessary)	OD Green	
36	Uniform Pants Female (Rugged, durable, that can be worn in the field if necessary)	OD Green	
62	Field Pants Male (Rugged, durable, tactical field pants)	OD Green	
36	Field Pants Female (Rugged, durable, tactical field pants)	OD Green	

Suppliers may submit a quotation on all items.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of the shopping documents and further information at the following email address projectmanager.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz between *9:00 am to 4:00 pm local Belize time*.

The contract will be awarded to the Supplier whose quotation is evaluated as substantially responsive to the Shopping Documents and offers the lowest evaluated cost. Your Quotation should be sealed in an envelope and addressed to and delivered at the address given below by ***August 7th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m***.

Attention: *Project Manager*
Address: *Blue Bonds and Finance Permanence Unit*
3rd Floor Eleanor Hall Building,
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City, Belize

Late quotations will be rejected and returned to sender. Electronic submissions will not be permitted.

BELTRAIDE Says: "THANK YOU, COROZAL!"

A massive thank you to everyone who came out today to support our incredible local entrepreneurs at the Buy Belizean Expo. Your energy and commitment to shopping local mean the world to our small business community!

The Roadshow Continues... Punta Gorda Town, you're up next! Catch the National MSME Roadshow on July 30 to August 1. We can't wait to see you there!

- A huge thank you to our incredible sponsors:

- Gold: Atlantic Bank & DigiWallet

- Silver: The Belize Bank Limited

- Bronze: Atlantic Insurance Company Limited, Finance Belize , Development Finance Corporation & Central Bank of Belize. (Post)

Community Rehabilitation Department

Diversion and Rehabilitation Services in Belize

July 14, 2026 The Community Rehabilitation Department (CRD) within the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs convened a staff validation workshop to review and strengthen a comprehensive set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will guide the department's work in prevention, rehabilitation, court services, aftercare, and programme management.

The workshop brought together CRD staff, representatives of the Ministry, technical experts, and development partners to ensure the procedures reflect best practices while responding to the realities faced by those working with children, youth, families and communities across Belize.

The workshop was made possible through the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the PACE Justice Programme, funded by the European Union, which continues to partner with Belize in strengthening a more responsive and people-centered justice system. Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Amilin Mendez, Inclusive Growth, Digitization and Governance Team Lead at UNDP, emphasized that the validation exercise was about much more than finalizing a policy document.

"Today is not about a document. Today is about people. It is about the young person who makes one mistake but deserves a second chance instead of a lifetime of consequences. It is about families who need support before crises become tragedies, and communities becoming safer because we choose rehabilitation alongside accountability."

She highlighted the importance of diversion as a key component of a modern justice system, explaining that it strengthens every stage of the justice chain by providing appropriate pathways for children and young people, supporting informed judicial decisions, and ensuring access to structured rehabilitation services that foster positive outcomes.

Mrs. Ganesha Smith, Acting Director of the Community Rehabilitation Department, welcomed participants and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to strengthening systems that promote rehabilitation, accountability, and successful reintegration for young people in contact with the law.

The validation workshop marks another significant step in the Ministry's ongoing efforts to build a coordinated, child-sensitive justice system that prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and opportunities for positive change. Once finalized, the Standard Operating Procedures will provide clear operational guidance for CRD staff nationwide, helping to ensure consistency, quality service delivery, and improved outcomes for children, youth, and families. (release)

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 9046, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing 692.119 Square Meter (s) situate in J&W Subdivision, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Elizabeth Kayla Melendrez and Travis Franklin Ciego (Jointly).

Parcel No. 3340, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing 464.591 S.M. situate in the Lord's Bank Village, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Lindbergh Moses Arnold.

Parcel No. 919, Block No. 16 Vista Del Mar Registration Section containing 416.21 Square Meter (s) situate in Vista Del Mar, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Miguel Efrain Marin surety for Vista Rentals Limited.

All THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot. No. 330 containing 724.510 Square Meters of land situate in the Windmill Area, Hattieville Village, Belize District bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 2164 attached to Ministers Fiat Grant No. 108 of 2013 held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 31st day of October, 2024 being the freehold interest of Tricia Nicole Valentine and Edmond Elsworth Carter surety for Tricia Nicole Valentine.

Parcel No. 377, Block No. 45, St. Martin De Porres West Registration Section containing 335.41 Square Meters, situate corner Lacroix Boulevard and Gladden Street, Belize City, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Clifford Cooke.

DATED THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY 2026

Eulogy

Jean Margaret Gonzalez

June 27, 1954 – July 16, 2026

Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you all for being here today to celebrate the life of our beloved Jean Margaret Gonzalez—our mother, aunt, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and quite possibly the funniest person in any room she entered.

Jean was born on June 27, 1954. She was the fifth child of eleven siblings. She grew up in Trapiche, Santa Elena with her parents and siblings until she decided it was time for her to form her own family.

Jean is predeceased by: Her parents: Lorenzo and Telesfora Gonzalez; Brothers: Carlos Thompson Sr. & Amin Gonzalez; Sister: Lorett Gonzalez; Sons: Donicio Gomez & Justin Neal.

She is survived by: Four brothers: Clifford Sabala Sr., Lorenzo Gonzalez Sr., Feliz Gonzalez Sr., Miguel Gonzalez Sr., Gustavo Gonzalez Sr.; Two sisters: Bernadette Lindo & Maricela Rodriguez; Three children: Hugo Jeovanni Neal, Jermie Neal & Jason Neal; Two daughter in laws, many grandchildren, great grandchildren, aunt, brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Jean was a fun-loving woman who truly enjoyed life. She loved to dance especially when she heard her favorite song 'Calm Down', and she had a way of making everyone she met feel like family. Before long, the people around her would become one of her friends, or one of the many children she had unofficially adopted along the way.

She also had a special gift for making people laugh. Sometimes it was through a perfectly timed joke. Sometimes it was through one of her unforgettable facial expressions. And sometimes she was not even trying to be funny—which, honestly, made it even funnier.

When Jean was younger, she loved playing outside with the other children. But while everyone else was busy playing, Jean would sometimes slip away from the crowd, disguise herself into a scary costume, hide, and then suddenly jump out to frighten everyone. Even then, she knew how to make an entrance and keep people on their toes.

Jean also had very strong opinions about food—especially how her meat should be cooked.

On one occasion, her son-in-law Adam prepared a steak for her. Like what many would do, he cooked it medium rare. But when Jean saw it, she immediately announced: "¡Esta carne está cruda!"

So, he took it back and cooked it again—this time all the way through, exactly as she wanted it. When he brought it back, he jokingly told her: "Esta carne ya no está cruda, Miss Jean."

Jean knew exactly what she liked, and she was never afraid to let anyone know.

Continued on page 23

Belize Tax Service (BTS)
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize

Request for Proposals for Consultancy for the Development of an Institutional Brand Strategy and Identity for the Belize Revenue Authority (Individual or Firm Selection)

Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop a comprehensive and cohesive institutional brand identity for the Belize Revenue Authority (BRA), that reflects its transformation into a modern, semi-autonomous revenue authority.

Specific Objectives of this Consultancy

I. Develop a Brand Strategy Framework aligned with the BRA's mandate and core values.
II. Design a visual identity system, including supporting elements.
III. Develop a Brand Manual and Brand Toolkit.
IV. Establish a Brand Messaging Framework for internal and external stakeholders.
V. Develop a Brand Implementation and Rollout Strategy.
VI. Ensure alignment of the brand with organizational culture and transformation objectives.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the consultancy can be requested from eddie.herrera@bts.gov.bz. Proposals must be submitted to the Director General of the Belize Tax Service by July 31, 2026 by 5:00 pm at michelle.longsworth@bts.gov.bz.

Specific Procurement Notice

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Request for Bids
Small Works

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Belize
Name of Project: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project
Contract Title: Export Corral for BLPA
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: P172592
RFB Reference No.: *BZ-SIF-561554-CW-RFB*

1. The *Government of Belize has received* financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project* and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction of Export Corral for BLPA.

2. The *Belize Social Investment Fund* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for *the construction of Export Corral for BLPA.*

3. Bidding will be conducted through a national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" *November 2020* ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Social Investment Fund, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in *English* may be requested by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before *August 21st, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. local time.* Electronic Bidding *will not* be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on *August 21st, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.*

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of BZD$152,000.00

8. "Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."

9. The address referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone: +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org
Cc : jahnina.reyes@sifbelize.org

YOUNG AVIATORS

Exploring Belize's Air Navigation Systems

FIRST STEMU AVIATION CAMP

July 23, 2026 - Day Four of Belize's first STEMU Aviation Camp provided 27 young participants with exceptional access to the systems, professionals and technology responsible for keeping Belize's airspace safe. During an educational visit to the Civil Aviation Authority and the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport, campers toured the Radar Room, Aeronautical Information Management Room and Air Traffic Control Tower. The experience allowed students to move beyond the familiar image of the pilot and discover the extensive team of professionals working behind every safe departure and arrival.

Civil aviation personnel introduced the campers to air traffic control, radar surveillance, aircraft separation, flight planning, aviation communication, and the management of critical flight information. Students learned how controllers use radar, radio communication, aircraft speed, altitude and distance to anticipate movement and safely coordinate aircraft entering and leaving Belizean airspace.

The students also explored the difference between primary and secondary radar systems, the use of the international phonetic alphabet, standard aviation time, visual and instrument flight rules, emergency communication procedures and the multiple backup systems available when normal communication is interrupted. From the Tower, they observed live airport activity while learning about runways, taxiways, aircraft identification and the careful coordination required among pilots, air traffic controllers and ground personnel.

The Civil Aviation Authority team demonstrated that aviation depends on precise communication, sound judgement, mathematics, situational awareness, discipline and teamwork. CAA Deputy Mr. Stanley Gideon helped guide the experience, while Mr. Lanza introduced students to the important work of Aeronautical Information Management. ATC Ms. Lopez provided an engaging presentation on radar operations, aircraft monitoring and the responsibilities of air traffic controllers.

The visit reinforced one of the central messages of the camp: aviation is much broader than flying an aircraft. The sector requires air traffic controllers, mechanics, engineers, avionics specialists, information management personnel, safety professionals, firefighters, airport personnel and many other skilled workers.

SCA VPSA and STEMU Camp coordinator Jamie Usher stated, "This camp is helping children understand that they can find a place within aviation through many different interests and abilities. Aviation brings science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life while also teaching discipline, communication, responsibility and teamwork. When children are given direct access to these environments, they begin to recognize that these careers are within their reach."

The historic camp reflects the commitment of STEMU to providing innovative and meaningful learning experiences. Under the leadership of Jarrus Mitchell the camp has helped create an opportunity for young learners to explore a nationally important industry through practical STEM education.

The programme has been strengthened through the outstanding cooperation of the Belize Defence Force, including the BDF Air Wing and Mr. Nigel Carter, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Belize Airport Authority, Tropic Air, Deep Blue Avionics and Saint Catherine Academy.

On Days 1 and 2, Deep Blue Avionics, through the contribution of Mr. Terry Folsom and aircraft mechanic Mike, have helped students understand the technical skills, maintenance standards and problem solving required to keep aircraft operational and safe. On Day 3, the Tropic Air Team led by Derecia Salazar,Delvitt Samuels provided valuable exposure to commercial aviation operations and the range of professionals required to maintain a reliable national air service on Day 3. On Day 5, the BDF Air Wing will further expand the students' understanding of aviation by highlighting its importance to national service, security, emergency response and disciplined leadership.

The involvement of the Belize Airport Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority has opened spaces that are rarely accessible to the public, giving the campers a first-hand understanding of the people and systems supporting Belize's aviation sector.

Each partner has contributed professional expertise, mentorship, access, institutional support and encouragement. Their collective participation demonstrates what can be achieved when education, government, national defence and private industry work together to prepare Belizean children for emerging opportunities.

The first STEMU Primary Aviation Camp is building more than aviation knowledge. It is developing curiosity, confidence and awareness among young learners while creating an early pathway into STEM and technical careers. Day Four showed the campers that safe aviation is built on preparation, continuous learning and a shared commitment to excellence.

The organizers extend sincere appreciation to Mr. Nigel Carter, the Civil Aviation Authority, CAA Deputy and pilot Mr. Stanley, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Lopez, the Belize Airport Authority, the Tropic Air Team, Deep Blue Avionics, Mr. Terry Folsom, aircraft mechanic Mike, Dr. Salome Tillett, Jamie Usher, the Belize Defence Force and BDF Air Wing, and every professional who invested time and expertise in Belize's next generation of aviation leaders. (release)

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

TRANSFER OF ELECTORS

1ST JULY TO 31ST AUGUST ANNUALLY

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR RESIDENCE FROM ONE DIVISION TO ANOTHER?

If yes, to apply you must:

- Be a registered elector since 2nd July 2018
- Be residing at the new address for 2 months or more
- Visit the registration office for the division in which you now reside

To facilitate the process, you MUST bring ONE of the following:

- Voter's ID
- Driver's License
- Social Security Card
- Passport

PRODUCED BY ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

CROCHET CLASSES

FOR HIGH SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS OF FREETOWN CONSTITUENCY

DATE: JULY 27 TO AUGUST 7, 2026
TIME: 1:30 PM SHARP - 4:30 PM
LOCATION: 270 CHETUMAL ST, BELAMA 2, BELIZE CITY

Learning to Crochet isn't just a hobby, it's a stress-busting, joy-inducing, creativity-unleashing superpower!

To register, students can text or call 670-0528 or 674-5289!

Organized by the PUP Freetown Executive and the Freetown Education Opportunity Center

Another Historic First

Gracing the Cover of "Songlines"
The Garifuna Collective

They are the First Belizean band to be featured on the cover of a major international music magazine.

Currently on a 14-day tour of the UK, Ireland, and Germany. Even at the kickoff the tour is already being considered a massive success, marked by several historic milestones as they recently became the first Belizean band to be featured on the cover of the prestigious British world music publication, Songlines Magazine. The July edition of Songlines included a special cover-mount CD featuring their exclusive track, "DUNURU (Bird)"

The high-profile venues in the tour increase its aura of grandeur. These include major stops such as London's renowned Jazz Cafe and the world-famous WOMAD Festival.

Songlines Magazine: "We travel to Belize to meet the Garifuna Collective, the ensemble continuing the legacies of Andy Palacio and Aurelio Martínez while keeping the music of the Garifuna people moving forward."

Jean Margaret Gonzalez

Continued from page 22

Jean had many interests and talents. She loved fishing and was truly a jack-of-all-trades. When she wanted something done, she was willing to learn how to do it herself. She was independent, resourceful, hardworking, and never afraid of a challenge.

She was also a loyal street captain for the People's United Party. Jean believed in supporting her community and standing firmly behind the things she cared about. When Jean committed herself to something, she did so wholeheartedly.

Her family will also remember the telephone calls she shared with her son Joe nearly every day. Joe might answer and ask: "Hello, what's up? What's going on?"

Jean would simply reply: "Nothing."

But, of course, there was usually something. And if Joe did not call quickly enough, Jean would declare: "Ya se olvidó de su mamá!"

Jean's children knew that forgetting to call their mother was not an option. She would make sure they remembered, and she would probably remind them more than once.

When Jason would stop by, she would say to him, "This ya midget done the drink or done wa start tease me."

Jean loved her children deeply. She taught them many important life lessons and showed them the importance of working hard, being resourceful, and doing whatever was necessary to care for the family.

During difficult times, Jean found creative ways to earn money and keep the household going. She would prepare items for Joe and Jermie to take out and sell. Joe may not always have been excited being sent out as the salesman, —but Jean knew Joe was always willing, outgoing and capable. This was the same for Jermie. He cried because he was embarrassed to go out and sell. She taught her children that when life became difficult, they could not simply give up. They had to find a way forward. That was Jean.

She was strong, determined, practical, and loving. She did not only tell her family how to survive difficult moments; she showed them.

Her love language may have sounded something like: "Did you eat?" "Where are you going?" "Why didn't you call me?" "Take this food with you."

And, of course: "Ya se olvidó de su mamá!"

She loved her family fiercely. She celebrated their successes, worried about their problems, and always found a way to make even serious moments feel a little lighter.

Jean taught us many important lessons: Keep laughing, especially when life becomes difficult.

Work hard and never be afraid to learn something new.

Always look after your family. Do not forget to call your mother.

And, most importantly, never serve Jean a medium-rare steak and expect her to eat it quietly.

Although today is filled with sadness, Jean would not want us to remember her only with tears. She would want us to remember the laughter, the dancing, the telephone calls, the fishing trips, the jokes, the teasing, and all the ordinary moments she turned into unforgettable stories.

Jean's passing leaves an enormous space in our family. We will miss her voice, her laughter, her advice, her humor, and her unique ability to turn an ordinary moment into a story we will repeat for years. But we are grateful for every year, every laugh, every lesson, and every memory she gave us. Jean Margaret Gonzalez was truly one of a kind. She was deeply loved, and she will be missed more than words can express.

So today, let us honor Jean in the way she would have appreciated most: by loving one another, sharing our favorite stories, dancing when the music plays, calling our mothers, and laughing loudly enough for her to hear us.

Rest peacefully, Jean.

We love you, we miss you, we promise to keep telling your stories and say hi to our loved ones in heaven.

And whenever someone serves us a steak that is even slightly pink, we will think of you and say: "¡Esta carne está cruda!"

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Tracie Jenkins/Omar Manzanero** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"O'Marva's Riverside Restaurant"** located at # 11/13 Regent Street West, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tamara A. Nunez/Anfernee K. Nunez** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mr. & Mrs. Nunez Taste of Kingston Jamaica"** located at # 990 Youth For The Future Dr., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Decoy J. Flores/Tanya M. DeCosta** are applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Chicken Bites"** located on Res. Holy Emmanuel, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Karisha Casimiro** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Hopkins in Hattieville"** located in Hattieville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

Name of Company	Date of Dissolution
TALAMANCA HOLDINGS LTD.	April 21,2026
Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.	

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

Name of Company	Date of Dissolution
GLENDER MARKETING LTD. ACUTALPOINT PORTFOLIO INC. GOBLEN INVESTMENT S.A.	May 5, 2026 May 7, 2026 May 13, 2026
Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.	

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

Name of Company	Date of Dissolution
SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS LTD. KILRUSH POINT INC.	June 3, 2026 June 18, 2026
Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.	

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY
Lord's Bank, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.

1. Lot No. 225 North of Cahal Pech Street, Lord's Bank, Ladyville, Belize District:

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot 225 situate in Lord's Bank, Ladyville, Belize District, the leasehold property of Mr. Danny Garbutt.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

Congratulations

The Belize City Council Via Its Student Hub

Additional 22 Primary Grads Benefit

Ensuring meaningful children and youth participation through policy, advocacy and inclusion!
Twister
ld Advisory Body of Belize City
BELIZE CITY
BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

The Belize City Council, along with the Child Advisory Body of Belize City, has been creating pathways to opportunity for our children through the Youth Connect Student Hub, which provides meaningful educational support, including homework assistance, tutoring, mentorship, and a nurturing environment that encourages students to thrive.

Throughout each academic year since 2023, the Youth Connect Student Hub has provided consistent educational support to an average of 60 children, helping them strengthen their academic skills, build confidence, and receive the guidance needed to succeed.

This year, we proudly celebrate twenty-two (22) students from our Youth Connect Student Hub centers who have successfully completed primary school with the support of our program. This is a significant milestone in their educational journey and we are truly proud of every one of them!

This year, we're also honoring our shooting stars - top academic performers, most-improved students, and young learners who demonstrated leadership and a willingness to support and encourage their peers; soft skills we know will continue to keep them on a path of success and positivity. These accomplishments reflect the power of commitment, perseverance, and a supportive learning environment in helping children reach their potential.

The Youth Connect Student Hub remains a sustainable investment in the growth and development of Belize City's children, ensuring they have access to the support, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed. Through this initiative, we continue to uphold every child's fundamental right to education, as enshrined in Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (citco post)

Ensuring meaningful children and youth participation through policy, advocacy and inclusion!
CERTIFICATE
TIC-TAC-TOE
BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

GOB - UNICEF Launch

Landmark Climate Landscape Analysis for Children and Vulnerable Populations

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, through its Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) and Climate Change Department (CCD), in partnership with UNICEF Belize, officially launched the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children Plus (CLAC+) Report on Friday, July 17, 2026, at Grand Resort Residences.

The CLAC+ Report is the first comprehensive national assessment of how climate change, environmental, energy, and disasters (CEED) affect children and other vulnerable populations in Belize, including persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and pregnant and lactating women. It provides evidence-based recommendations to strengthen climate resilience and promote more inclusive policies and programmes that better address the needs of those most at risk.

The report offers a critical foundation for strengthening national policies, investments, and programmes that protect children and vulnerable communities from the growing impacts of climate change. Its recommendations encourage a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to climate action by fostering stronger collaboration across sectors, including health, education, social protection, disaster risk management, environmental management, and sustainable development.

The official launch marks an important milestone in Belize's efforts to advance evidence-based climate action and resilient development. It brought together representatives from government, development partners, civil society, academia, youth organizations, and other stakeholders to share the report's findings, discuss priority actions, and strengthen partnerships for implementation. (release)

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs Leads

Child Protection & Justice Steering Committee

July 16, 2026 - Belize has taken another step toward strengthening the protection and welfare of its children with the official launch of the Child Protection and (CPJSC), a national body designed to improve coordination among agencies responsible for child protection and child justice. The launch ceremony was held at the Lamanai Hall of the Fort George Hotel and Spa and brought together government officials, members of the judiciary, development partners, and representatives from key public institutions.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs notes the new committee reflects the Government's continued commitment to ensuring every child is protected, supported, and given access to justice through a coordinated and child-centred approach. The initiative follows recommendations made during the 2024 National Child Protection System Evaluation, which was carried out by the Department of Human Services in partnership with UNICEF Belize. The assessment identified the need for stronger collaboration, greater accountability, and better strategic alignment among agencies working with children.

UNICEF Belize Representative Sajid Ali described the committee as more than another government body. "*Belize has chosen not to simply create another committee but to create a platform through which agencies can work together more effectively in the best interest of children.*"

Justice Natalie Dixon, Chair of the Child Protection and Justice Steering Committee, said the launch marked a commitment to institutionalising child-friendly justice throughout Belize. "*We're not just launching a committee here today; we're solidifying our promise to institutionalize child-friendly justice across Belize. Together we will ensure that every child who interacts with the legal system is treated with the utmost dignity and compassion*," she stated.

Justice Dixon noted that Belize has long had ambitious policies supporting children's rights but lacked a unified structure capable of measuring whether those efforts were making a meaningful difference.

The newly established CPJSC will oversee national prevention and response efforts across both child protection and child justice sectors while guiding implementation of the National Strategy to End Violence Against Children and the Child Justice Reform Action Plan. Its work will also align with Belize's Children's Agenda 2017-2030 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, while promoting prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration for children who come into contact with the law.

The committee will be chaired by the Judiciary through the Chief Justice of the Senior Courts, while the Director of the Department of Human Services will serve as Vice-Chair. Administrative support will be provided by the National Committee for Families and Children, which will act as Secretariat by coordinating meetings, maintaining records, and providing technical and logistical assistance.

Membership includes representatives from the Ministries of Human Development, Education, Health and Wellness, and Home Affairs, along with the Belize Police Department, Department of Labour, Immigration Department, Office of the Special Envoy, UNICEF Belize, and members of the Judiciary, including the Magistrate's Court, Family Court, Legal Aid, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The committee has been assigned seven core responsibilities, including legislative and policy advocacy, improving service quality in line with international child rights standards, strengthening training for professionals working with children, promoting multi-sector collaboration, supporting social and behaviour change initiatives, and establishing effective reporting and monitoring systems.

Its implementation plan is divided into five strategic phases. The first phase in 2026 focuses on building the legal and institutional foundation. Core services are expected to be rolled out in 2027, followed by expansion and integration in 2028. Quality assurance measures are scheduled for 2029, while 2030 and 2031 will concentrate on sustainability and the next stage of reform.

Attorney General Anthony Sylvestre said, "*A great majority of children who end up in conflict with the law are wounded children, which is why today's event and the breathing work of this CPJSC is to be celebrated,*" he said, adding that his ministry stands ready to collaborate with the committee and its partners.

Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs Thea Garcia-Ramirez emphasized that success would not be measured by meetings or reports but by meaningful improvements in children's lives. She said safer homes, stronger support systems, quicker responses for vulnerable children, and greater opportunities for every child to thrive would define the committee's achievements. Stressing that no single institution can accomplish the task alone, the minister reaffirmed her ministry's commitment to working with partners to build a stronger child protection and justice system for Belize. - EF

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